



THE AUSTRALIAN

# *garden journal*

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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## Front cover

*'Culzean', Westbury, Tasmania.*

*A view of the lake looking due east from the bridge crossing the overflow from the lake — shows the island in centre and water lilies in the foreground. On the far right can be seen the 'Apricot Nectar' roses as described on page 107.*

*(photo - Keva North)*

## Our Two Little Men

The two little men on our masterhead are taken from Thomas Hyall's "The Gardeners Labyrinth", published in 1577. A suitable caption comes from Thomas Tusser's "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandrie" published twenty years later - "Through Cunning, with Dibble, Rake, Mattock and Spade By Line and by Levell, trim garden is made"

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## Past — Present — and Future

From "Garden Cuttings" to "The Australian Garden Journal" seems to be a big step. It is, however, a logical one and one that does little more than give formal acceptance to the changes that have already occurred and the altered status that this magazine has acquired. In fact, little more has changed with this issue — a change of name, a change (a slight one) to the front cover and some small changes to the internal layout. "Garden Cuttings" has not entirely disappeared — you will find it towards the back, in something like the form in which it was originally conceived.

But this, in many ways, is a very special issue. We become, and are honoured to become, the official journal of the Australian Garden History Society; and so we welcome some six or seven hundred new readers, members of that Society who did not subscribe to the old "Garden Cuttings".

Some may think that we have become a kind of bigeneric hybrid. Maybe we have, but I would like to think that, if this be the case, the cross has captured the best features of both its parents. What we wish to show, in the months to come, is that garden history is not just another academic subject, but one that is a valuable, even an essential, aid to evaluating and formulating current principles and practice in horticulture and garden design.

While I was writing this I happened to read, in the February 1982 issue of "The Garden" an article on an English garden by Allen Paterson. Allen was formerly Curator of the Chelsea

Physic Garden in London, where he did a wonderful job, and is now Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario. Besides being a noted plantsman he is a man of many talents, one of which it seems is writing. For he summed up in one phrase exactly what was in my mind, in words on which I could not improve. He was writing about "great gardens" and the criteria for "greatness". One such criterion, he suggested, was "that of combining into a cohesive whole aspects of time past and time present, which one feels (the state of the world permitting) is likely to continue into time future".

We cannot all, of course, aspire to greatness. But we can at least aim to raise our standards of perception and critical appraisal, in our own gardens and in those of others. We may find Allen Paterson's criterion useful in doing this. His one phrase sums up, to me, what garden history is all about. It is about the past, the present and the future. And that is exactly what this magazine will be all about.

Its success, however, depends upon the quality of individual contributions, and I would like to thank, and to pay tribute to, all those people who respond to my cajoling, tolerate my raving about deadlines and so on, and produce without complaint articles on such a wide variety of subjects. There is, elsewhere on these pages, a plea for more contributions; there are also "editorial guidelines"; these we must have, and hopefully they are not too demanding. But if you type with one finger on a typewriter that can't spell, or don't even own a typewriter and can't spell anyway, don't be discouraged — we will make something of it!

TIM NORTH

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## Government help for Mt Macedon gardens

(The following is the text of a Press Release from the Victorian Ministry for Conservation issued on 12th April 1983)

The Government is to offer help to owners of historic gardens affected by the Mt Macedon bushfires.

Mr Evan Walker, Minister for Conservation and for Planning, said yesterday that a garden advisory service would be set up at Mt Macedon this Friday (15th April) and be available for at least three months, depending on local need.

"The Mt Macedon gardens are an important part of Victoria's heritage, and their loss is a loss to the whole community," Mr Walker said.

"They have been hard hit by the bushfires; about one quarter were totally destroyed and almost all the others were damaged in varying degrees.

"Because these gardens are of national significance, we want to help their owners with the enormous task of restoration and reconstruction."

Mr Walker made it clear this project would be funded from existing departmental resources, not from the bushfire relief appeal fund.

Initial help had already been provided to garden owners by Government sponsored visits by Mr Kevin Heinze and Mr Alan Gardiner to most of the fire-ravaged areas, he added.

Mr Walker said that the assistance at Mt Macedon could take various forms.

"It could provide information on the availability of appropriate plants, advice on retention of fire-damaged trees,

or general advice on garden design and re-planting.

"Where destruction has been almost total, an immediate task is to record garden layouts and structures, and identify burnt plants," Mr Walker said.

"We feel that some of the gardeners formerly employed on these properties may be able to give valuable help in this regard.

"Local people, too, have expressed their willingness to help by contributing their knowledge of plants and the history of the gardens," Mr Walker added.

"Assistance has also been offered by organisations such as Burnley Horticultural College, the Department of Architecture and Building at R.M.I.T., and the Garden History Society."

Mr Walker said the advisory service being set up this week could serve as a co-ordination point for all these offers.

Its establishment followed a recommendation by staff from the Ministry for Conservation, Department of Planning, Royal Botanic Gardens and Burnley Horticultural College, who formed a working group to evaluate the Mt Macedon situation after the fires.

Mr John Stevens, appointed to run the garden advisory service at Mt Macedon, lost his own garden in a Dandenongs bushfire some years ago.

"So he can add personal experience to his qualifications as a horticulturist and landscape architect," Mr Walker said.

Mrs Penny Dunn of "Dreamthorpe", Mt Macedon, has volunteered to act as co-ordinator between residents, local authorities and the garden advisory service.

She may be contacted on (054) 261735. Information is also available from Miss Chris Johnston at the Ministry for Conservation 651 4011.



# The gardens at 'Culzean' Westbury, Tasmania

by Dr and Mrs H.T.C. Laker

As far as can be ascertained with any degree of certainty, Culzean was built circa 1840 by a Captain Martin. It is believed that he spent leave here in Tasmania from the Indian Army and was so taken with its beauty that on retirement he married and took up permanent residency here. Hence the strong Anglo Indian influence in the architecture of Culzean.

The gardens and trees were established by a Mrs Joy, who was reputed to be a very keen gardener, around 1878. The planting included an avenue on each side of the drive into the property and many trees on the west side of the house to provide shelter and a windbreak from the prevailing westerlies.

The majority of the trees originated as seedlings from Sir Richard Dry's tree nursery at the well known property of 'Quamby' and included a large selection of Cedars, Sequouia, Ash, Limes, Elms, various species of Oak, Pines, Larch, Sycamore, Thuja, Beech, Chestnut (both sweet and horse) and Silver Birch.

The property, consisting of about 38 acres, was divided into paddocks of convenient size and shape and the whole surrounded by tall Hawthorn hedges - these hedges in full flower, in the Spring, are indeed a truly wonderful sight and the scent from them can be quite intoxicating.

Around the turn of the century a large number of shrubs were added to the extensive list of trees by the then present owner, Charles William Busby.

However, few of these remain as prior to our occupation 'Culzean' experienced hard times, and the gardens were allowed to deteriorate to a devastating extent - sheep and cattle being turned in to keep the grass and rubbish under control. Only the bigger trees and a few of the hardier shrubs survived.

The task of restoring the gardens, house, and buildings (the house was nearly in the same condition as the garden) was begun eighteen years ago - it was monumental - tall grass and weeds

together with blackberries and gorse had grown almost unchecked (apart from what the sheep and cattle had eaten) for years. Garden beds and paths were completely hidden and overgrown.

Fortunately, thanks to the Busby's who had made a map and plan of the garden (albeit not drawn to scale) it did help us to find paths and water pipes and taps - and it also emphasised the number of shrubs that had been destroyed and lost.

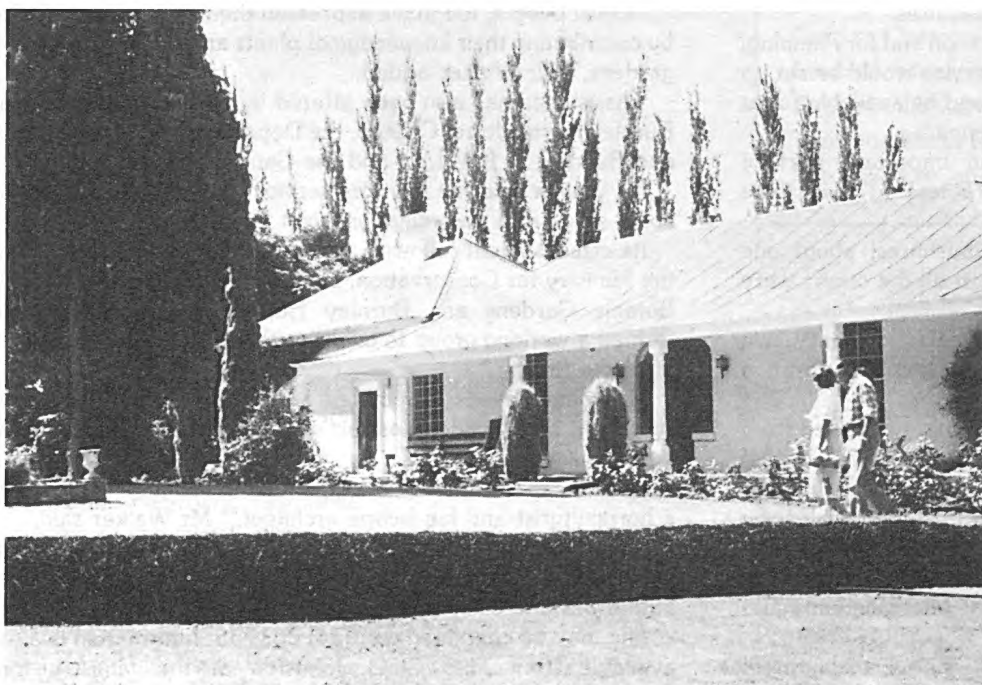
Apart from the larger trees, the myriads of bulbs also survived and the ground beneath the trees in the spring is completely carpeted with English Bluebells, Daffodils, Snowdrops, Snowflakes, and later in the year Solomon's Seal and Belladonna Lilies.

We have added considerably to the original 3 acres of gardens - including a 3 acre ornamental lake and a further landscaped area of 2 acres. The lake has added much to the scene of tranquility and beauty. Its establishment has meant the coming of a large number of water fowl of various species and now as well as the songs of the birds in the garden, the calls of water fowls can be heard. Added to this has been the addition of more exotics such as many varieties of pheasants and peafowl. These are allowed to run at will and have become well established, the entire garden being surrounded with a seven foot security fence placed behind Hawthorn hedges.

The garden itself is divided into two main areas - that surrounding the house with its formal beds of roses and clipped box and lonicera hedges and the other area which is a wild woodland area, where the bulbs are situated and which is being under-planted with Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Camellias.

It is contemplated that a third area will soon be started, for the display of dwarf conifers.

The front of the house overlooks the lake and a large and noble Elm tree. The entrance to the front door is flanked by a pair of Swane's Golden Cypress and the area directly in front of the house is gravelled with a fountain in the centre and surrounded by a clipped lonicera hedge with entrances onto the lawns flanked also by Swane's Golden Cypress.

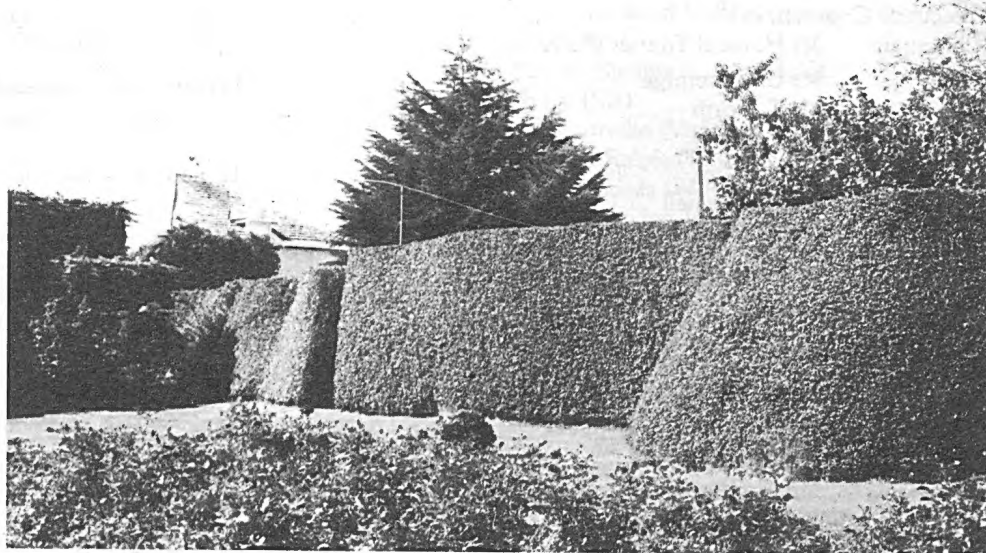


*THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE taken from the south west showing clearly the Anglo Indian influence of the pillars and verandah.*

*The fountain can be seen on the far left which is in the centre of the gravelled sweep which is in turn surrounded by the lonicera hedge in the foreground.*

*(photo: Keva North)*

BED OF MARLENA ROSES in the foreground - with the tall formal clipped privet hedge behind - on the east side.  
(photo: Keva North)



Two trees of great merit which are now quite large and believed to have been planted by the Busby's are *Catalpa bignonioides* - one being an 'aurea' and quite outstanding.

The roses, of which there are approximately 800, are massed in formal beds mostly near the house. However, in a long bed on the other side of the lake away from the house there are around 300, mostly 'Apricot Nectar' - these have done particularly well and the situation and soil seems to suit them admirably.

Around the edge of the lake the common English Yellow Water Iris has been allowed to naturalise - both beautifying and stabilising the edges - as have *Iris kaempferi* and *Iris siberica* - these make a quite spectacular show in late spring.

As to future plans, the shade house is full of Rhodos, Azaleas (mollis and kurume), Camellias and dwarf conifers, all ready to be planted out this coming winter.

#### Editor's note:

Part of the uniqueness of 'Culzean' lies in the fact that the property is still intact, and has never been sub-divided in spite of the fact that it lies within the town boundaries.

It is a matter of considerable concern, therefore, that the Tasmanian Department of Main Road's proposed new by-pass road at Westbury would cut right through the property, cutting off the dam, which Dr Laker made three years ago as part of his plan to extend the garden, from the main ornamental gardens.

The Australian Garden History Society is actively opposing such a move, and is in constant touch with Dr Laker and the Department of Main Roads on this issue.

T.N.

## Editorial guidelines

Contributions to this Journal are welcome. We will be grateful however if contributions will keep to the following guidelines.

Articles etc. should be typewritten in clear black type, double spaced on one side of the paper. Please endeavour to use the same size type and the same typewriter throughout.

Margins should be left at left and right-hand sides of the pages. At least 40mm at the left, and 25mm at the right. Top and bottom spaces should also be at least 25mm.

Please leave a line space above (and below if possible) all headings, so that they are clearly distinguished. It is better to leave a line space between paragraphs rather than indent each paragraph, but this is often a matter of personal preference, and it will be styled consistently by the person arranging the printing of the publication.

Headings should be typed in capitals or underlined and with no full point.

Botanical names should be underlined so that the printer knows to print them in italic type. The genus should have a capital letter, the species takes a lower case letter, i.e.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon

Where there is a subspecies mentioned it is typed thus:

Eucalyptus dalrympleana subsp. heptantha

It is preferable that words not be broken and hyphenated at the end of a line - start a new line instead.

Type captions for photographs on a separate sheet of paper and key captions to photographs or illustrations, i.e. number the illustrations 1, 2, 3 etc. and number their captions accordingly.

Please supply full name and address so that photographs etc. can be returned to you after publication.

It would be helpful if a brief paragraph describing your current areas of research, your job (if relevant) etc. be supplied on a separate sheet of paper. Brief biographical notes may be interesting to members in some instances.

# THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Patron: Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, D.B.E.

Executive Committee:

Chairman: Mr Howard Tanner (NSW)

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Mr T. Whitehill

Tas: Mrs E. Cameron  
Mr M. Hurburgh  
Mrs P. Ralph

W.A.: Mrs O. Richards

Qld: Mrs E. Wilson

Secretary: Mr Tim North, P.O. Box 300, Edgecliff, NSW 2027

Membership Secretary and Treasurer:

Mr Chris Betteridge, 3 Pine Street, Randwick, NSW 2031

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary.

## Permanent address

The Society's permanent address, to which **all** mail should be addressed, is now P.O. Box 300, Edgecliff, NSW 2027.

The use of the Tasma Terrace address in Melbourne has been discontinued, but may still appear on some old stationery, membership forms, etc.

## Membership records

All membership records are now kept on a computer file, which means that all membership applications and renewals will be dealt with promptly and efficiently. Membership cards will be printed by the computer at the same time as the details are entered on the file and normally will be posted within four to five days. This also means that membership lists, on a State basis, can be produced at very short notice.

## Subscriptions

All subscriptions fall due for renewal on 1st July and renewal notices are included with this Journal. Those who have joined the Society since 1st April last have been given the benefit of membership to 30th June 1984 and so are not required to renew.

Members of the Society who have a part-unexpired subscription to 'Garden Cuttings' (which, in its new form, will be distributed to all members as the Society's official Journal) will find a refund notice on their membership form, and are required to pay only the net amount due, the balance will be transferred from 'Garden Cuttings' to the Society under internal accounting arrangements.

Similarly, existing subscribers to 'Garden Cuttings' who are not members of the Society but who would like to join may apply to the Secretary to have any unexpired part of their 'Garden Cuttings' subscription used as part of their membership subscription for the current year.

Subscriptions not renewed by 1st October will be deemed to have lapsed and no further reminder notices will be sent.

## Annual Conference 1983

The theme for the Conference, to be held in Adelaide on 4th, 5th and 6th November, will be "Historic Gardens in the Present Day; Heritage, Conservation and Maintenance".

The programme for the Conference will be as follows:

### Friday, 4th November

- 10.00 am to 11.30 am Registration at Grosvenor Hotel
- 
- 12 noon to 1.30 pm — Registration at Adelaide Botanic Gardens
- 12 noon — Lunch in Botanic Gardens
- 1.30 pm — Brief introduction to Botanic Gardens, followed by a guided walk, to approximately 3.00 pm
- Remainder of afternoon free.
- 6.00 pm — Drinks and remainder of evening programme at Grosvenor Hotel.
- 6.30 pm — Briefing on gardens to be visited
- 7.00 pm — Lecture — Professor W. T. Stearn
- 8.15 pm — Formal Dinner

### Saturday, 5th November

- 9.00 am — Buses leave for Raywood Gardens
- 9.45 am to 10.45 am — Visit Raywood Gardens
- 11.00 am to 12 noon — Visit Marbury
- 12.15 pm to 2.00 pm Visit Beechwood (lunch at Beechwood)
- 2.15 pm to 4.00 pm — Visit Forest Lodge
- 4.15 pm — Return to Adelaide City
- 6.00 pm — Annual General Meeting
- Facilities will be available for 10 minute/10 slide talks.
- Delegates to make their own arrangements for dinner.

### Sunday, 6th November

- 9.00 am — Buses to leave for Loreto
- 9.30 am to 12 noon — Two to three major lectures, with discussion periods. One of these will be "The Changing Role of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens through the influence of Society, Economics and Politics", by Thekla Reichstein.
- 12 noon — Inspection of gardens at Loreto
- 12.45 to 1.45 pm — Lunch at Loreto
- 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm — Visit Michelle House, Medindie (original plan by Edna Walling)
- 3.15 pm to 4.00 pm — Garden to be chosen

Registration brochures will be available from Mr Tony Whitehill, Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000, from 1st July onwards. The numbers attending will be limited to one hundred, and all applications will be dealt with strictly in order of receipt.

The registration fee, which includes formal dinner, three lunches and bus travel, will be \$75.00 per member. Accommodation will be at the Grosvenor Hotel, North Terrace, Adelaide, at a price range from \$40.00 (two person occupancy) to \$59.00 (two person occupancy). Concession airfares, through Ansett Airlines, may be available for parties of fifteen or more travelling on any one flight. Further details on this facility will be circulated with the registration brochures.



## Executive Committee

Under the Society's Constitution, five members of the Executive Committee are required to resign at the Annual General Meeting this year, and may offer themselves for re-election.

In the meantime, nominations for the Executive Committee will be accepted from any member desirous of making one. The only qualification required is that the person nominated must be a financial member of the Society at the time the nomination is received. Nominations should be forwarded to the Secretary not later than 30th September.

## Advisory Panels

Following a decision of the Executive Committee at its meeting in Melbourne in February, the following Advisory Panels have now been established:-

### Plant Resources Panel

Initial responsibilities include the compilation of lists of plants now rare in cultivation that are considered worthy of conservation, the identification and recording of known locations of such plants (whether in public or private gardens, or commercial nurseries), convening meetings of interested people and preparing suitable material for the Journal:

- Convenor: Mr Tony Whitehill,  
Botanic Garden of Adelaide,  
North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A. 5000.
- Members: Dr Sophie Ducker (Vic)  
Mr Lyn Meredith (ACT)  
Mr Mark Hurburgh (Tas)  
Ms Lorraine Grewcoe (NSW)

### Restoration/Conservation Panel

Initial responsibilities include the following up of State surveys on historic gardens already completed, and the formulation of proposals for the funding of further work:

- Convenor: Mr John Patrick,  
Burnley Horticultural College,  
Burnley Gardens,  
Swan Street, Richmond, Vic. 3121.
- Members: Mr James Broadbent (NSW)  
Mr Michael Lehany (NSW)

### Archives Panel

Initial responsibilities include the establishment of a data bank of archive material, including plans, photographs and drawings, details of which will be published in the Journal from time to time.

- Convenor: Mr Howard Tanner,  
Cox Tanner Pty. Ltd.  
68 Blues Point Road, McMahones Point, NSW  
McMahons Point, N.S.W. 2060
- Members: Mrs Oline Richards (WA)  
Mr John Patrick (Vic)  
Mr Peter Watts (NSW)

### Legal and Financial Panel

To advise owners and curators of historic gardens on legal and financial matters:

- Convenor: Mr Peter Watts,  
Historic Houses Trust,  
Premiers Department,  
State Office Block,  
Phillip Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000
- Members: to be appointed

## Journal Contributors Panel

To advise on, and solicit suitable articles for inclusion in the Journal:

- Convenor: Mr John Patrick,  
Burnley Horticultural College,  
Burnley Gardens,  
Swan Street, Richmond, Vic. 3121.
- Members: Lady Ebury (Vic)  
Mrs Anne Latreille (Vic)  
Mrs Penelope Ralph (Tas)  
Mrs Oline Richards (W.A.)  
Mr Victor Crittenden (A.C.T.)  
Mr Howard Tanner (N.S.W.)  
Mr Peter Watts (N.S.W.)



## State News

### Tasmania

An East Coast weekend was held on 19th and 20th March. A separate account appears elsewhere in this issue.

On Sunday 1st May members visited Hollyrood House at Oatlands for lunch, after which Mr Tony May, of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hobart, spoke and showed slides on his recent visit to British gardens. Mr Raphael led a short walk through the township and explained plans for future street and garden plantings.

On Thursday 16th June a mid-winter soup and sandwich lunch will be held at Manresa, Sandy Bay Road, Hobart, the home of Mr and Mrs R. R. Shepherd; the guest speaker will be Mr Frank Walker, former Government Horticulturist.

Spring activities include visits to two gardens in Sandy Bay on Sunday 25th September, and visits to gardens in Deloraine, with a smokehouse lunch, on Saturday 22nd October. Later in the spring a picnic lunch at Palmerston House, Cressy, the home of Dr and Mrs P. Jackson, is planned; there will be a plant auction, plant trading table, and hopefully facilities for plant identification.

### New South Wales

On Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th April, members of the Society participated in a second Fair at the Dame Eadith Walker Hospital, Yaralla, Concord, and led guided walks around the gardens on both days.

On Sunday 8th May a Garden Walk around Hunter's Hill was attended by some eighty members. The walk covered six gardens, the properties dating from 1860 to 1890.

A series of four to five lectures, on a variety of topics concerning Australian gardens is being planned for the period mid-July to mid-September, in conjunction with the Young Trust; details will be circulated to members in due course.

Spring activities now being planned include:

- a Garden Walk weekend for Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th August, to include visits to bushland gardens in the Manly-Warringah area on the Saturday, a Wine and Cheese Party on Saturday evening, and visits to gardens in the Upper North Shore area on the Sunday.
- a "behind-the-scenes" visit, in conjunction with A.C.T. members, to the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, probably during September.

## Visit of Professor W.T. Stearn

Professor W.T. Stearn will be visiting Australia later this year at the invitation of the Australian Garden History Society, and will be guest speaker at the Society's Annual Conference in Adelaide in November.

Professor Stearn is a very eminent botanist and a world authority on the history of cultivated plants. Until his retirement in 1976 he was Principal Scientific Officer of the Department of Botany at the British Museum (Natural History); before that he was Librarian to the Royal Horticultural Society for fourteen years and was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour by that Society. He is President of the Linnaean Society and President of the Garden History Society of England.

He is author or co-author of a great many books on botany, plant collecting and botanical illustration. Among his published works are:

- Lilies of the World (with H.B.D. Henderson) 1950
- Botanical Latin 1966
- The Gardener's Dictionary of Plant Names  
(with A.W. Smith) 1972
- Captain Cook's Florilegium (with Wilfred Blunt) 1973
- Australian Flower Paintings of Ferdinand Bauer  
(with Wilfred Blunt) 1976

Professor Stearn will, during his stay in Australia, be lecturing in most capital cities. The provisional programme for his lecture tour is as follows:

- Perth - 1st to 3rd November
- Adelaide - 4th to 8th November
- Melbourne - 9th to 11th November
- Launceston and Hobart - 12th to 14th November
- Sydney - 15th to 18th November
- Brisbane - 19th to 22nd November

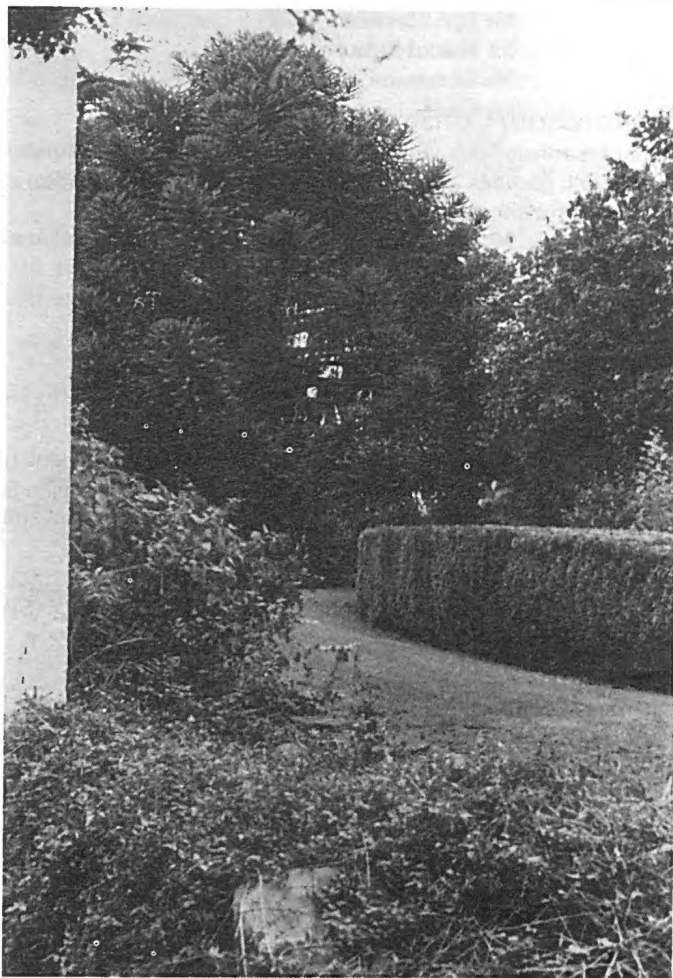
In most cases lectures are being sponsored jointly by the Australian Garden History Society and various other organizations and institutions, such as Friends of Botanic Gardens, University Departments of Botany and Landscape Architecture, Institutes of Technology, etc. Further details of these lectures will be published in our August issue.

The Australian Garden History Society wishes to express its thanks to the following organizations for financial assistance in connection with Professor Stearn's visit -

- The Australian Heritage Commission
- The British Council

and hedges, orchards of walnut, apples and pears and vegetables gardens. George Meredith had a large family and many servants, so it was necessary to produce as much of their own fruit and vegetables as possible. The house itself was not built until 1836. Cambria is approached through a hawthorn drive of which Louisa Anne Meredith writes in 1840 "hawthorn hedges greeted me pleasantly again with their old remembered verdure and fragrant blossoms... Below a deep precipitous bank on the south side of the house flows a winding creek, the outlet of the Meredith River, gleaming and shining along its stoney bed, and richly fringed by native flowering shrubs, mingled with garden flowers half-wild, poppies, stock, wallflowers, and bright-eyed marigolds looking merrily up, amidst thickets of golden wattle and snowy tea-tree; whilst on the higher ground, huge old gum-trees stand majestically." The huge trees still remain including monkey puzzle and the massive hedges about the gardens which were no doubt planted for wind protection, the front verandah pillars are still wreathed in jasmine and other compatible plantings have been made by the present owners Mr and Mrs N. Burbury.

Kelvedon: built in 1830 and owned by Mr and Mrs D.P. Cotton was the next property visited. Originally the house was surrounded by a very large garden extending to the lagoon where a bucket water wheel was constructed in the creek to supply water. The first Mrs Cotton brought lilac and very sweet scented single pink rose with her from England. Bulbs were imported from Holland and planted in massive beds, and most of these still remain.



MAYFIELD - front garden

## Tasmanian East Coast Weekend

by Ann Cripps

About 30 members of the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society participated in an enjoyable weekend based at Swansea on the East Coast of the Island.

In 1821 the first settlers Lieutenant George Meredith together with Adam and John Amos sailed up the coast from Hobart Town and selected land on the Meredith River (Cambria) and Cranbrook. Soon others followed and settled in the area including the Cottons at Kelvedon and the Buxtons at Mayfield. Swansea became the administrative centre for the area - the Municipality of Glamorgan - Australia's oldest rural municipality founded in 1860.

Cambria was the first property visited by members. From 1825 the Merediths began building stone walls, planting trees





KELVEDON - front garden  
(photography: Peter E. Cripps)

Dr G.F. Storey, a well known doctor and botanist who practised on the East Coast from 1828 to 1885 lived with the Cotton family, and grew many medicinal plants such as licorice, chamomile, and also herbs. He also spent much time collecting and growing seedlings for the Botanical Gardens in Hobart as well as for Kelvedon. He also planted many trees including yew, poplar, ash, oak, elm and cork oak.

Few of the massive collection of fruit trees remain in the Kelvedon orchards. Many years ago a very high and rough sea flooded the orchard and it was said the fruit tasted salty for some years afterwards, and many trees died. There was also a walnut orchard containing six varieties of walnuts.

James Cotton, returning from England, stayed with friends in Palestine and he suggested to them that the Tasmanian Eucalypt might be an ideal tree to grow there. On returning to Kelvedon he asked Dr Storey to select suitable seed and send it to Palestine. From these have developed the eucalyptus gums which are growing in that country. The centenary of their planting was recognised by Palestine, when they wrote to Kelvedon requesting a photograph of James Cotton to be placed in a meeting room and in return sent to the Cotton family a plaque made from the wood from one of the eucalyptus trees.

The final visit was to Mayfield. The first home and garden date from 1828 when the original grant was made to Thomas Buxton. The property is now owned by Mr and Mrs Robert Dunbabin. As with the other properties visited, the orchards were an important part of Mayfield. Much of the fruit produced by these orchards was sent by boat to Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart and cider making was a very important occupation. Today in the orchard surrounding the house there are cherry plum, apricot, pear, apple, plum, fig, quince, mulberry and almond trees.

The garden contains a great variety of magnificent old trees - elms, a huge *Araucaria araucana* (monkey puzzle tree - which has only fruited twice in 13 years) cedars, poplars, hawthorns, pencil pines, prunus, Japanese maple, silky oak, Moreton Bay fig, Norfolk Island pine, hibiscus and a knarled old *Abies* of great

vintage and Queensland lace bark. The flower beds are surrounded by privet and box hedges, and contain many old roses and honeysuckles.

It was a fascinating weekend for all attending, one which made us realise just how much history can be unfolded through a garden.

NOTE: The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Ruth Amos; Mr and Mrs Nicholas Burbury; Mr and Mrs D.P. Cotton and Mr and Mrs Robert Dunbabin for their kindness in opening their gardens to the Australian Garden History Society and so making this weekend possible.

## "In Praise of Trees" exhibition

Launched by the United Nations Association of Australia on June 5th last year "1982 — The Year of the Tree" was primarily designed to alert people to the grave dangers Australia — and the world — faced through the disappearance of trees and forests. This ambitious programme has been remarkably successful not only because more Australians than ever planted trees in 1982/83. Although all levels of government, industry, conservationists, etc., were involved, the most significant aspect has been that ordinary folk, not just the experts, have become involved and are doing something about tree preservation.

But one year, of course, is not really enough to halt the loss of trees in this country, let alone increase the total planting. To show appreciation of the achievements attained so far and to encourage the on-going maintenance of this interest the Highlands Garden Society in the Bowral District are planning an exhibition "In Praise of Trees" featuring the many and varied "blessings" from trees.

To be staged on Saturday, August 20th and Sunday, August 21st in the Bowral Memorial Hall, the exhibition will be opened officially on Saturday afternoon, August 20th at 3.00 p.m. by Miss Valerie Swane, President of the U.N.A.A. Committee "Decade of Trees Greening of Australia". Active support is already forthcoming from Service Clubs, local nurseries, schools, many individuals and the "Decade of Trees" organisation. Displays of trees, such as conifers, maples, Japanese maple cultivars, dried pressed leaves, unusual wooden musical instruments, clogs, bark paintings are but a few of the displays and tableaux being prepared.

Mrs Yvonne Smith, Vice-President of the Highlands Garden Society and Hon. Convenor of the Exhibition, is actively engaged in co-ordinating the various exhibits to ensure the compatibility of adjoining displays.

The exhibition is not confined to the Bowral District, of course, as it is expected that this endeavour will have nationwide interest and appeal, helping to maintain and encourage the on-going maintenance of "The Decade of Trees" and, hopefully, to ensure that there will be an International Year of the Tree in the not too distant future. Mrs Smith can be contacted at (048) 71-1416.



I will merely add that no gardener will keep a collection of shrubs in good order unless he has a hard heart and a sharp knife, and uses them both with judgment.

Canon Ellacombe  
In a Gloucestershire Garden

# Mount Macedon Gardens

by John Patrick

The tragedy of the fires which swept through many areas of Victoria and South Australia on February 16th, "Ash Wednesday", will be apparent to all. Compared to the loss of life, the loss of gardens and houses must represent a low priority for our concern and yet clearly, from the point of view of the National Heritage, the losses have been significant. As the dust settles, the rain begins to fall and we are able to stand back from the shattering event it becomes clear just how considerable the losses are and a programme of recording and restoration becomes more significant.

The drought of the winter and spring of 1982 and the summer of 1983 had already left its mark on the gardens of Mount Macedon. Many gardeners struggled, firstly to water their whole garden and then, as restrictions became more demanding, fought to save special favourites from among their plants. These were watered with all waste water directed through Heath-Robinson systems of pipes and buckets.

Sadly even many of these most treasured plants are now lost and with them the significant gardens of which they were part. We might remind ourselves of the quality of these gardens for on the southern slopes of Mount Macedon were assembled a collection of more than 40 hill station gardens of different sizes which Peter Watts in his Historic Gardern Study described as "perhaps the most outstanding collection of historic gardens in the State and possibly Australia". Their value, I believe, goes beyond the Australian scene, especially if we consider them as part of a web of gardens created by British influence through the world, in India and Ceylon, in the West Indies, Southern Africa, indeed wherever the British influence spread overseas.

Damage to the gardens varies considerably and in many of them it is not yet possible to fully establish how severe it is since many superficially burned trees and shrubs may well prosper once they receive the longed-for seasonal rains. It would appear that over 25% of the major gardens have been more or less completely destroyed. This includes Graystones, where Edna Walling carried out some work adding to the existing gardens with its splendid Rhododendrons and mature conifers, Penrith, the charming small garden of Willowmount and Illira, from which the most fabulous views were obtained over the plains to Melbourne.

Few gardens seem to have avoided some form of damage. Ard Rudah suffered considerable damage to its mature trees while Alton also suffered. Happily most of the splendid, rare coniferous material survived here. Camelot, Cameron Lodge, Deriweit, Dreamthorpe, Duneira, Durrol, Forest Glade, Hascombe, Menani, Sefton and Tannah Merah have all suffered damage of different degree of severity. Much seems to have depended upon the site of the garden. Clearly those which received the full onslaught of the blaze suffered the greatest damage. Here it made little difference what plant material was planted because temperatures were such that the fire would destroy it. In other gardens, to either side of the main fire-path the degree of damage has, to some extent depended upon the type of vegetation which grew in the garden. Thus at Sefton holly hedges burned very quickly and proved to be the major area of damage. Similarly Duneira suffered the greatest damage at its edges where hedges burned quickly.

In the face of such damage it was quite clear that urgent action was necessary to try to provide advice to garden owners. This

advice had to fulfill a number of objectives which included the safeguarding of as much of the valuable vegetation as possible without, of course, unwisely preserving trees which would prove dangerous, filling the requirements of local residents who, not unnaturally wished to ensure the survival of the maximum amount of their gardens, and ensuring that the greatest amount of historically significant information was preserved or at least recorded.

It is disappointing that since Peter Watt's Historic Garden Study little follow up work has taken place to develop a complete record of the character of the gardens which he so successfully identified. The urgency of this action has been highlighted by the losses of the Mount Macedon fires and it is to be hoped that attention may now be attracted again to this urgent problem, the recording of the exact plan character of our major gardens.

The provision of advice for garden owners has come from several directions with visits by well-known gardening experts and views, some of which were in conflict, expressed by many involved in this area. From the point of view of the Heritage Commision the more important role which they could fulfill involved the recording of the gardens and advice about their future resoration.

Having recognised this problem the Heritage Commission has now responded by employing John Stevens to act as a co-ordinator for the recording project to be undertaken within these gardens. The aim of the project is to develop as complete an archive as is now possible about the Mount Macedon Gardens. This will involve the use of surveyors, photographers, botanists and historians who will thoroughly survey the gardens to record their existing condition and speak to owners to capture their memories. Clearly it will not now be possible to record all details of the garden and many of those individual idiosyncracies which help to create the individual quality of a place may be lost. It is the working group's hope that by careful measurement and plan drawing we will be able to produce at least a skeleton on which restoration may then take place.

The severely burned plant material will be extremely difficult to identify; indeed it may prove impossible to identify some cultivars of the more critical species. It is our hope, however, that a good botanist will be able to provide the identities of the greater number of largest specimens. We believe it is important, not only to identify and record a plant's location but also to establish its age. Many of the gardens have been planted over, some with material quite unsuited to their historic period. It will be essential, both for historic records and for restoration that clear evidence of the original character of the garden is identified.

It is for previously mentioned reasons, most significantly the loss of particular details of the garden, that the oral history process becomes essential. The recording of the memories of the garden owners will help to conjure up some feeling for the mood, colour and other sensory aspects of these lovely places. The mention of 'lavender walks' or 'chamomile lawns' may provide evidence which will otherwise be absent.

For similar reasons photography becomes an essential tool. There are two roles for photographs. The first of these is to provide a record of the existing condition and the way in which this condition changes with time. This will help to reveal something of the plant material's response to fire although clearly this is a quite separate study on which a great deal of research needs to be carried out. Photographs will also help to record plant relationships, locations and growth habits.

There is also a need to locate the broadest range of photographic material which relates to the garden. There will be some professional material which was taken to illustrate books and other publications but still more material will be included among family snapshots. All such material will help to provide evidence of the character of the gardens.

Unfortunately the project is only now getting underway when some material has already been felled and removed. It is essential that a list of priorities is established so that the gardens may be recorded in a systematic manner. Obviously gardens most seriously damaged will be the major priority but there are other considerations, for example the role of a block of land where subdivision may then take place or a site which is being cleared for redevelopment.

Those gardens which have survived the blaze will be given a lower priority not because they are of lesser quality as gardens but because the reduced level of damage suggests they will be available for measurement for some time in the future. Here is the single really optimistic vein in this whole article and that is the opportunity for all the gardens to be recorded so that there will be a complete set of records for the Mount Macedon Gardens. It is essential that this process is implemented with the agreement of the garden owners and so clearly this is seen as a matter of urgency. It is hoped that the availability of the completed records to the owners, either for restoration or as a source of information about their gardens, will act as a stimulus to their involvement.

While my attention has been focused on the gardens of Mount Macedon it is clearly essential that further resources are made available for this work to be continued in major gardens away from this area. The recording of their plans, the identification of plant material and the preparation of measured drawings of their structures would provide us with invaluable information for garden restoration work together with archival material for the future.

Perhaps this programme is most urgent in relation to plant materials. We must try to identify the locations of rare plant materials so that they may provide the source of material for future propagation as well as identifying those horticultural subjects which are in the greatest danger of being lost from our gardens.

If we take the example of Mount Macedon, I believe that the availability of a high diversity of plant resources is fundamental to the re-development of the garden for it these plants are not available we are in grave danger that the gardens will be created using modern cultivars. The thought of Mount Macedon becoming submerged beneath a sea of Golden Conifers of

Rhododendron 'President Roosevelt' is one which holds little attraction especially for those aware of the area's historic significance.


And here lies the real urgency of the recording programme which is now being undertaken, for through this and the contact which is made with garden owners it is hoped that a greater awareness of historic garden work will be achieved and hopefully an increased desire to re-plant with suitable material. In this way the botanical diversity which was a major reason for the areas interest will be retained.

I might now add a few observations about the plant material which suffered from the effect of the fires. Some plants were clearly burned and in these cases much depends upon the severity of the fires in which they were engulfed. Other plants were scorched by fire blast and these appear to be less severely damaged but again much depends upon their degree of scorching.

Recent rainfall has stimulated vigorous leaf growth from many plants, indeed even in the most damaged areas there are signs of suckers developing. It is important to recognise that the earth is a very effective insulator. Roots have frequently suffered little damage from the fires. Once water became available the roots responded and shooting took place in many plants.

The problem is that much of this reveals a die-back of the tree into the crown so that the overall form of the plant is lost. There is also a danger that an extension of the drought or early hard frosts could cause further damage to plants by killing these soft young shoots. Clearly it will take time for the health and visual value of plants to be clarified and with much of the damaged material there must be a genuine hope that it will recover to provide useful cover, at least in the short-term. Problems arise in areas where avenues or at least single species wind-breaks have existed, for this really demands clear felling followed by a re-planting programme. Following the damage resulting from the fire it will be difficult to encourage owners to fell trees which are apparently healthy even if their neighbours are burned and then re-planted. Connected to this is the question of microclimates, for the loss of mature trees will have a very significant effect on the climate of a garden, not least in its exposure to winds. The potential damage which this may cause is not easy to assess on fleeting visits.


Another problem lies in the character of the re-growth which will take place from below burned material on plants which are now shooting. Clearly the character of these shoots will depend on the stock plants which were used. With many *Rhododendrons* there is a danger that *Rhododendron ponticum* will regenerate completely, altering the character of the garden. It is to be hoped that much of the material will prove to be on its own roots.



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## Mount Macedon Gardens (cont)

In the long-term it is to be hoped that the Mount Macedon experience will awaken those who hold the purse strings to the need for further work within the area of historic gardens. This work centres around two key objectives:

1. the development of an overall management plan to assist in the conservation of historic gardens through a working group who are able to offer advice and direct enquiries to a suitable problem solver. It is hoped that the present group who are working on the Mount Macedon programme might eventually extend their brief to this broader task and
2. to utilise the rehabilitation/restoration project at Mount Macedon to provide a basis for further research in the field of historic gardens including the development of full, measured drawings, photographic surveys and oral histories of all major Australian gardens.

If such a programme can be implemented then there may be some small advantage salvaged from the tragedy of February 16th.



## Fire and the natural environment

by *Thistle Y. Harris*

The misery and destruction caused by the recent disastrous fires, particularly in South Australia and Victoria, have raised doubts concerning the advisability of encouraging growth round or near buildings as a likely cause of spreading fires. There have been advocates of a policy to keep all buildings well clear of any living plants. People who love gardens and take delight in the out-of-doors feel, with others, compassion for the tragedies following such devastating disasters. To most of these association with bushland is essential to their fulfilment as human beings. I believe that we, part of the earth as we are, would lose something for which there is no compensation if we lost our contact with nature. No doubt we would survive — but as what? The frightening development of modern mechanisation is already depriving many people of the privilege of wandering free and unhampered through virgin country. So little of it remains here now and so many of us find our lives crowded with a multiplicity of duties chaining us to a world of concrete. Must we also sacrifice our bushland by confining ourselves to a panorama devoid of any naturalness from our safe bricks and mortar houses: Is there no other way?

Imbued with the belief that all people need some direct contact with nature to remain real humans it was my custom, in earlier times, to organise camps for students ranging in age from seventeen to early thirties to stimulate their interest and pleasure in and knowledge of the natural environment. In my first venture I interviewed applicants with a view to discouraging those who hoped only for a lazy holiday. (This was a vacation camp.) I was, of course hoodwinked by some students less naive than I was. I determined to be more astute in my screening next time. Before the end of that first camp I had revised my decision. By accepting all applications until the quota was filled I certainly had a percentage of would-be hoodwinkers looking solely for fun and games. My first experience had convinced me — and many subsequent experiences confirmed this — that whatever motive stimulated these young people the horizon of each of them was widened

in some way by this intimate and informal association with nature.

So what are we to do? Must we sacrifice more bushland to preserve ourselves and our buildings free from the threat of fire encouraged by the proximity of vulnerable bushland or heavy planting?

Australia, in general possesses more than its fair share of fire hazardous species, rough barked trees providing trunks offering a splendid medium for smouldering material rushing through the air. Many of these, such as eucalypts, other related species such as teatrees, paperbarks, honey myrtles and quite a host of others contain volatile flammable oil. On the other hand there are less fire hazardous species.

Some plants, such as the many kinds of saltbushes resist fire on account of the salt content in their leaves.

With careful thought and vigilance we can, in many situations reduce the fire hazard without creating a desert round our living and working areas. Obviously fire hazardous trees should not be planted so close to buildings as to endanger them; if you must have a house in a bushland setting you will need to take more precautions. Plants growing in a dense formation, forming a barrier are actually a deterrent against fire; they reduce wind turbulence and can arrest sparks. Reducing the ground litter to keep it to a minimum at all times can reduce the fire hazard considerably. This deprives the plants of root protection and surface nourishment but may save your lives and those of other people.

It has been suggested that smooth barked exotic trees with soft, broad, non oil-bearing leaves might be used in place of vulnerable eucalypts and other oil-bearing trees. This is true but they will not provide the bush look that a natural setting gives you. Moreover such exotics, springing into leaf as soon as the warm weather approaches accustomed as they are to such short warm spells in their natural environment reach full foliage very rapidly. Many areas in and around Sydney have delightful displays of the soft, gentle foliage of the northern plane trees, as appealing a picture as you could wish for. But, alas, with the first dry westerly winds, prevalent in this season, the lively fresh green is replaced by burned and wrinkled remnants, hanging forlornly from the branches. The usually harsh summer that follows gives little opportunity for fresh young growth and, as soon as the temperatures begin to drop the ugly brown gargoyles drop off leaving nothing but a skeleton until the next spring revives them for a short period. Added to a group of Australian natives which have survived unscathed the ferocious winds they rather remind one of an elegant maiden aunt daintily sniffing a sausage at a bush picnic. So we are faced with the choice of a complete troglodyte existence with no noble trees to help us endure our mundane existence or the implementation of an intelligent planting programme to maintain an environment safe against all but a holocaust. Such a programme would embrace actions to be taken by persons of all ages and all abilities in the event of their discovery of potential or existing fires of varying dimensions; actions to be taken if involvement in a fire occurs, necessary first aid measures and so on.

We hear so often of drastic fires following careless use of picnic and burning off fires and of some lit with deliberate malice. Education at all levels to avoid such unhappy events is also needed. There is a wide range of Australian native plants which might well be substituted for the hazardous, rough barked oil-bearing species. Local forestry officers can supply you with those suitable for your district.

In general the plants which are the greatest hazard in fire occur in the following groups:

The Myrtle family most of which have a high oil content in the leaves. These include the eucalypts (though Blue Box — *Euc. bauerana*, Bloodwood — *Euc. gummifera* and Spotted Gum — *Euc. maculata* have been recommended as fire retarders); *Angophora* and *Backhousia*; Bottlebrushes (*Callistemon*); Teatrees and Paperbarks (*Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca*); Lillipillies (*Acmena*, *Eugenia* and *Syzygium*); Brush Box (*Tristania*); Turpentine (*Syzygium*).

The Mintbushes (*Prostanthera*) also have high oil content in their leaves as do also the Boronia family including *Boronia*, *Correa*, *Crowea*, *Phebalium*, Waxflowers (*Eriostemon*) and *Zieria*.

Fire-retarders include Saltbushes (*Atriplex nunnularia*, *A. rhagodioides*; *A. vesicaria*) and Bluebushes (*Marieana aphylla*, *M. brevifolia*, *M. pyramida*; *M. sedifolia*), Pyramid tree (*Fugosia patersonia*); *Myoporum insulare*, *M. muntanum*, *Rhagodia baccata*, *R. nutans*, many members of the *Grevillea* family (*Proteaceae*); specially recommended are *Banksia marginata* and *B. ornata*; *Grevillea rosmariniformis*.

Thoughtful planting and persistent encouragement through educational sources, accelerated as the fire period approaches and directed at all age and social groups could do much to mitigate the anxious times we experience in this dry country as the fire season approaches.

## The Bowerberry

An American horticultural newsletter, "The Avant Gardener", reports that the great new garden fruit of the 1980s may be an *Actinidia*. Not *Actinidia chinensis*, the Kiwi Fruit or Chinese Gooseberry, but *Actinidia arguta*, a much hardier species that will stand quite severe frost.

*A. arguta* is sometimes called the Bower *Actinidia* or the Siberian Gooseberry, but Peter Del Tradeci of the Arnold Arboretum has proposed a new name for it, the Bowerberry.

It is a strong growing vine with glossy green leaves that have red petioles. The waxy white flowers are said to be strikingly beautiful, but are short lived and mostly hidden under the leaves. The fruit is about 2.5 by 1.5cm in size, with a smooth edible skin and lime green flesh, its flavour being something of a mixture, of strawberries and melons, gooseberries and bananas. When fully ripe the fruit becomes very sweet, and contains ten times as much Vitamin C as do lemons. They can be eaten fresh or used to make syrup, sun-dried for pastries and puddings, and even fermented to make a fine wine. Fruit will keep for four months under refrigeration.

At Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner museum, two vines in the courtyard yield more than ten gallons of fruit every year; in Lithuania, where this plant is widely grown, one hundred and ten pounds of fruit per vine are reported.

Usually one male plant is recommended for every five to ten females, but some plants bearing both male and female flowers sometimes occur.

*A. arguta* is easily grown from seed, if seed is stratified in a refrigerator for three months, or from cuttings which may be taken either in the dormant period or in summer. Pruning in late spring is recommended to increase yields.

It tolerates all but poorly drained soils, and its only pest appears to be cats - its leaves and roots contain many of the compounds found in the leaves of Catnip.



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# Autumn Bulbs

by Jean Galbraith

Bulbs and bulblike plants seem to be an appropriate subject for an article in a magazine that is largely concerned with garden history, for they live so long, disappearing and returning according to climate and season and the needs of their species.

When this article is read the autumn bulbs will be over, but we have their beauty to remember until they return. They are among the precious things of the year - and most precious in a year like this when summer drained the garden of so many flowers.

The first autumn rain was a small rain, but enough to wake the *Zephyranthes* and *Colchicum* flowers. Within a week the flowers of the West Wind (*Zephyranthes*) were in bloom like so many delicate white crocuses with golden hearts. Within a few days came *Colchicum agrippinum*, the Chequered Colchicum, springing from the ground overnight like frail goblets, cross-hatched with lilac-pink, their tall stems almost white and really part of a stalkless flower. In the garden they appear in all sorts of unexpected places, several flowers from each tuber.

The first *Cyclamen hederifolium* came with the Colchicums this year. They sow themselves about the garden and orchard, flowering in hundreds, pink or white. One looks for the first flowers in mid-December, with a few in time for Christmas, or at latest for New Year, and they come to full abundance in February. But this summer - the summer of heat and drought, of water restrictions and fire - there was no water to stir them into growth. Water had to be given to plants that might die without it, but Cyclamens are hardy little people and I knew they would survive. Even at the end of February only one or two flowered where they had some run-off from less enduring plants.

It was not until March, and that wonderful March rain that, once more, they were flowering in hundreds, pink here, white there. If one can judge by other years they will be with us until June, one or two even lingering until the shortest day. In March, too, came the first flower of *Meraridera*, which is rather like a Colchicum with narrower petals, springing straight from the ground and spreading on a rock garden ledge like a big delicate pink sea-star. Before they faded *Colchicum corsicum* was flowering behind them. It is my smallest as well as loveliest Colchicum, which I love as much as *Galanthus*, and I could not say more than that. One bulb was given to me last year, with the promise "It will increase".

It was the size of half an acorn, yet it gave me seven exquisite shell pink flowers, each cup barely an inch across. This year there were two clumps, and whenever it looked like rain I covered them with a glass, because even raindrops could flatten them, although they were flowers of some substance, compared with the thin petalled *C. agrippinum*.

*C. bornmuelleri* came next with rose and white flowers almost as big as tulips, though not as tall. They too were covered from possible rain.

With them two flowers of *Haemanthus coccineus* suddenly appeared, first as two little pink tongues thrust out of heavy brown bulbs. They were forerunners of solid, almost fleshy, scarlet cups full of crowded stamens, four inches across, on thick nine inch stems flecked with red. From those red flecks comes one of its common names, Blood Lily, but Ox-Tongue Lily, the name we use, describes in all but colour the pair of gigantic leaves which spread almost on the ground when the flower has gone. It is a strange companion for the delicate Colchicums and Cyclamens, and is not planted near them. Watering does not seem to affect its flowering. Every year I look for the little pink

tongues early in March, and always they are there.

The first Nerines, *N. fothergillii major* (now *N. curvifolia major*), largest and earliest and brightest of their genus, flower at the same time as the Ox-Tongue Lily. For a week or two their umbels of vermillion, shining with gold dust, overshadowed all the rest, and before the last flower was spent two other species of the eight in the garden were flowering, *N. flexuosa*, a rather dull shade of pinkish red; and one which, if I had to choose, I might say I like best of all, *N. sarniensis*, with the relatively broad, smooth, rosy-red petals which have a serenity one does not associate with the other species. The fairy-like *N. filifolia* rarely flowered here and has disappeared from the garden. Other species, pink, crimson or white, are not autumn bulbs, they flower in late May and June here, though probably earlier in warmer places.

With the early Nerines comes the sun-gold of *Sternbergia lutea* in March and April. It is one of the happiest of flowers and seems at home anywhere provided it has enough sunshine.

Usually in March, but this year at its queenly best at Easter, is one of the loveliest of autumn flowers, *Amaryllis belladonna* 'Hathor', with great clusters of white flowers which look as though they should serve as true lilies for Easter, though they are not lilies but belong to a related family, and only this year, when Easter was early, have they kept for it their full beauty. The smaller pink and white 'Belladonna Lilies' seem to take no notice of the weather. They are never watered and grow here and there in the grass and flower in late March whatever the season, ten or fifteen inch stalks bearing their clusters of clear pink and white trumpets.

The tall *A. belladonna* 'Multiflora' with two feet stems and great clusters of flowers, variously pale and deep pink to almost wine red, flowers at the same time as 'Hathor' when not watered, but here and there when water from some regularly watered young shrub seeped down to it, it flowered in early March.

This Easter weekend when, apart from the Nerines and Cyclamens, the autumn bulbs will soon be leaving us for another year, I found the first winter Iris, *I. unguicularis*, so very lovely, and not seen since last winter. So the seasons link hands, though not as much this year as usual. In a normal autumn both jonquils and a large flowered form of the Snowflake, *Leucojum vernum*, begin to flower in a damp hollow in March (though in dry places they are scenting the garden in July). This year there were no damp places and their leaves are only now appearing. Little *L. autumnalis* (which we used to call Acis) would normally have greeted March with fairylike bells but they didn't flower at all, though the leaves came up bravely. They will bloom another year when the rains come earlier. Flowers may fail, even leaves sometimes, but the bulbs endure. The jonquils that bloom first in March are the golden 'Soleil d'Or', descendants of those which my grandfather imported from Holland as a birthday gift for his son, nearly a hundred years ago, so when I wonder whether these autumn bulbs have really a place in garden history, I think perhaps the jonquils have earned them one.



Variation in flowers are like variations in music - beautiful as such, but almost always inferior to the theme on which they were founded, the original air.

Addison



# A New Underground Suburban Chapel and its Landscape

by Mary Davis

In an age when many religious denominations are disposing of suburban churches due to the amalgamation of congregations it is unusual to find a new chapel being built in an already established suburb, particularly one which is submerged into the site.

On this site stands a fine old house, West Maling, built by Weigall Albert Bythesia in 1889 and now protected by a conservation order made by the Heritage Council of New South Wales.

Bythesia was born in Nantes, France, in 1840 and later became possibly the most famous headmaster of Sydney Grammar School, a position which he enjoyed and occupied with notable success from 1866 to 1912.

He built West Maling as his home on the top of a very steep hill in Penshurst where it still has a commanding view over Botany Bay. How much land was purchased is not clear but it is now bounded by Penshurst Avenue and the very busy King George's Road.

Some unusual features of the old mansion are a massive Elizabethan front door, set in an inverted sandstone arch with Gothic flutings, and stained glass windows depicting great English essayists and poets in what was the ballroom. The bricks used in the external walls came from a local yard and are distinctly orange-red. They are relieved by areas of white woodwork on the upper story.

The history of ownership is uncertain between 1912 and 1960, but then it passed into the hands of the Oblate Fathers, who owned it for seventeen years. Six years ago it was purchased by the Australian Evangelistic Association, who drew up plans for a much needed chapel, to be located between the busy main road and West Maling. This plan was rejected under the terms of the conservation order.

Architects Noel Bell, Ridley Smith and Partners were engaged and they, with great sensitivity, designed a building which took advantage of the steep slope in the large front garden. To their credit it was sited to allow for the preservation of as many mature trees as possible. The roof of the chapel serves as a car park, and backed by a row of established Brush Box, *Tristania conferta*, does not detract from the stately old house.

The colour of the new building matches the old in its rendered finish and the descending entry steps are partly concealed by a pergola festooned by *Solanum jasminoides*, the White Potato Vine.

One of the trees removed prior to construction was a large Jacaranda, whose golden foliage in winter contrasted well with West Maling's brick walls. A semi-mature *Chamaecyparis obtusa Crippsii* in a circular bed opposite the front door also added to the green and gold theme.

The original garden was set out during the Federation period and from the beautiful wrought iron carriage gates set between pillars a privet hedge extended along Penshurst Avenue. Some of this had to be removed by the builders for access and to avoid damage to the gates.

In consultation with the architects and the clients it was my

great pleasure to design the gardens which were to enhance the new building whilst relating to the Tudor style residence, and also to the requirements of the clients who were most concerned about on-going maintenance.

Orange-red is not the easiest of background colours to work with, but by choosing a yellow, white and blue colour scheme the challenge was met.

Daylight entering the windows of the two underground vestries was made possible by the use of semi-circular walls set out from the building. In the sunniest of these *Asparagus sprengeri* was chosen as the soil binder, and in the shade one *Hedera helix* Pittsburgh was planted.

In keeping with the Federation period Kentia palms in shady areas and both blue and white Plumbago were used extensively. The remaining privet hedge is to be removed in favour of blue Plumbago. New trees being planted include Jacaranda, *Gleditsia Sunburst* and *Magnolia grandiflora*. Low maintenance shrubs included *Abelia x grandiflora* and *A x g. variegata*, *Murraya paniculata*, *Hypericum patulum*, *Strelitzias* (already existing on the site) and golden Diosma.

The east facing windows of the chapel look out onto the vertical trunks of the *Tristanias* and planted beneath them (with additional irrigation) are *Nandina domestica* and *Buxus microphylla japonica*, broken by some existing *Cyathea* tree ferns. For low foreground interest *Clivias*, *Dietes grandiflora*, *Aspidistras*, variegated *Chlorophytum* and *Vinca major* have been used in groups and drifts.

A parks and gardens superintendant member of the congregation is in charge of a voluntary team who are planting the new garden and who will, as the budget permits, follow the recommendations of the landscape plan in a staged development which embraces both new works and the renovation of the existing garden, including a "perennials for picking" garden near West Maling's front door.

Flowers created by God are thus used to decorate one of His newest houses, built to harmonize with its important neighbour.



WEST MALING: front facade, the entrance to the car park over the chapel is on the left of the picture

## 'Yaralla', Concord - a brief history

'Yaralla' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'camp'. Now the Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital, this large estate comprises an Italianate mansion, squash court, dairy, workers' residences, stables/coach house complex and service out-buildings set in an extensive garden bounded on three sides by bays of the Parramatta River at Concord.

The property was originally a grant in 1797 of 50 acres to Isaac Nicholls, the Colony's first postmaster. In his time it was an important orchard district, and from an auction sale advertisement of 1840 it is known that Nicholls' plantation contained Seville, China and Dwarf oranges, various kinds of lemons, apples, pears, plums, peaches, nectarines, apricots, cherries, figs, strawberries, pomegranates, and grapes, as well as a hot house with 1900 square feet of glass, furnace and flue complete, containing many tropical fruits including pineapples.

Under Nicholls' ownership the estate was enlarged by a second grant of 50 acres and was added to by purchase until it extended over 600 acres of Concord with its flourishing orchards, dairy cattle and market produce. By the end of the 1850s, due to changes in the economic climate and in the interests of Nicholls' sons who inherited the estate, 'Yaralla' had diminished in size almost to the boundaries of the original grant.

Yaralla was then transferred to Thomas Walker a Sydney merchant, pastoralist and shipowner who gradually absorbed the surrounding properties until the Estate expanded to 306 acres on Concord Road, with frontages to Major's, Yaralla and Horseshoe (or Bray's) Bays and the intervening points.

After living for some time in a cottage on the Estate, Thomas had built in the late 1860s a towered mansion befitting his wealth and station in the community, and he surrounded it with an English style gentleman's parkland estate.

Thomas Walker and his sister, Joanna, became rich and gave large sums of money for charitable and religious purposes. In a codicil to his will in 1886, Thomas Walker directed that a large hospital, for the reception and restoration to health of convalescing patients from the hospitals of Sydney and elsewhere, should be erected on that part of his land known as Rocky Point, on the Parramatta River. The Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital, now the Rivendell Adolescent Unit, was designed by Messrs. Sulman and Power, architects, and built on 100 acres of land at Rocky Point. It was opened in 1893.

When Thomas' wife, the delicate Jane Steele Walker, died after a long illness at Yaralla in 1870, their daughter Eadith was only five years old. Thomas Walker was by then almost seventy years old, and reputed to be one of Australia's richest men. The care and upbringing of Eadith was assumed by her aunt Joanna who came from Scotland to manage the household.

Eadith and a companion, Anne Maisefield adopted by Joanna Walker, were given a strict upbringing but were treated like princesses by governesses, tutors of French, music and other accomplishments for young Victorian ladies travelling from Sydney to Concord by ferry.

Shortly before her father's death, Edith accompanied him on an overseas trip and had her first introduction to the cream of British and European society. Only 21 when her father died, Eadith had been taught to value wealth, position and social responsibility. She had already started providing accommodation for her retired governesses and female servants in cottages built on land her father owned in Concord Road.

The exact date of construction of the original part of the Yaralla mansion is not known but a sundial which stood in the grounds until recently bore the inscription Yaralla 1864.

When Thomas Walker died in 1886 his daughter respected his wishes and immediately commenced the building of the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital. To the £100,000 left by her father, Eadith added an extra £50,000 to have it completed and to erect the Joanna Walker Memorial Children's Cottage Hospital in the grounds. This latter building has been renovated by members of the Concord Historical Society and serves as a local museum.

Eadith's childhood companion Anne, married John (later Sir John) Sulman and he designed extensions to Yaralla House, including a large panelled reception hall. Built with stone quarried from the site the original house was of one and two storeys with a four storey tower. It was extended between 1893 and 1899. The stables/coach house was also designed by Sulman about that time.

In the spirit of the 1890s the mansion was thrown open to guests. Gaily decorated ferries carried celebrities from Sydney to Yaralla's private wharf. Miss Walker's children's parties were unique. Her home became a centre for society and every visitor of note who passed through Sydney was entertained at Yaralla. For the visit in 1921 of the Prince of Wales (the late Duke of Windsor) she had a special squash court erected in the grounds. This building, reputedly the first squash court in New South Wales, survives today.



THE CREEK BED WHICH RUNS INTO THE KNOT GARDEN (APPROX 1910)  
(photo: Private collection)



VIEW OF GROTTO WORK (c.1905) SHOWING PLANTINGS OF ROCK LILIES IN LEFT FOREGROUND, BIRD'S NEST FERN TO LEFT AND CYCAD, LEFT OF CENTRE - NOTE CASUARINAS ON RIGHT AND SPARSE GROWTH OF MANGROVES.

(photo: Mitchell Library)

Eadith Walker took to travelling extensively. She was in India for the 1907 Edward VII Coronation Durbar (gathering of the princes). She became almost a compulsive collector and bought such an extensive collection of Indian pieces that a special room had to be built to house them. The walls of the Indian Room were lined with red velvet beneath carved wooden latticework, with an Indian painting encircling the four walls above door level. The Indian Room was sadly demolished in 1972 but part of the interior detail is preserved in the Concord Historical Society museum.

From a trip to Norway Eadith returned with a complete Norwegian cottage of log construction which was erected in the grounds of Yaralla to the west of the main house. Sadly, it too has been demolished.

When the doors of Yaralla were thrown open for a charity ball, it was no small affair. Yaralla-bound carriages and pairs formed an almost continuous procession from Sydney to Concord, and the approaches to the estate would be a blaze of light from Concord Road to the house. Eadith Walker installed her own power plant and was the first in Sydney to have electricity.

Small fleets of private launches carried other guests from Circular Quay to Yaralla jetty, where they were greeted by a band playing on a floating bandstand beside the jetty. At one party the

walls of the ballroom were lined with flowers and the guests danced in a bower of daffodils.

With the outbreak of World War I Eadith Walker became a benefactor of the armed forces and she established a camp for returned soldiers suffering from tuberculosis in the grounds of Yaralla, with her property at Leura, in the Blue Mountains lent to the Red Cross Society for the accommodation of tubercular patients.

For her patriotic services Eadith Walker was made a Commander of the British Empire in 1918 and ten years later, for continuous services to the Red Cross, hospitals and charitable institutions, she was elevated to the rank of Dame of the British Empire.

To the people of Concord, Dame Eadith was the grand lady of the manor, living alone and aloof in genteel splendour, seldom glimpsed even at charity fetes held in the grounds of Yaralla. Few knew of her personal acts of kindness and compassion to the poor and needy, particularly during the depression years, of her love of animals - there is a pets cemetery in the grounds - and of her affection for her beautiful Concord home. 'East West Home's Best' is inscribed above the huge fireplace in the panelled dining hall.

When it became necessary to relinquish land fronting onto



Concord Road, trees that fringed the long drive had to be cut down for road re-alignment, and thereafter in her comings and goings to Yaralla, Dame Eadith would direct her chauffeur to bypass this approach.

Dame Eadith Walker withdrew from public life to the seclusion of a city hotel apartment during the last few years of her life. Yaralla was visited on rare occasions so that she could see that the mansion and grounds were being maintained in the splendour of their past glory.

When Dame Eadith died at the age of 72 in 1937, she left only £265,000 of her father's vast fortune. The rest she had given away. The trustees of her father's estate decided that they should buy Yaralla from Dame Eadith's estate and present it to the Government for a memorial hospital to be called the 'Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital for Men' which would be complementary to her father's Memorial Hospital for Women and Children on the opposite side of Yaralla Bay.

The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital was made custodian of the property as a result of a ballot drawn among metropolitan hospitals. The Dame Eadith Walker Hospital receives a sum towards the upkeep of its garden and grounds from the Thomas Walker Perpetual Charitable Trust Fund, but this sum is no longer sufficient to maintain the garden as it was in its heyday.

It is thought that the garden at 'Yaralla' was laid out by Thomas Walker himself but it was certainly added to by his daughter.

An impressive avenue of Brush Box trees running between grassed paddocks leads to the garden. The drive bordered by shubberies continues curving past the rose garden to the house.

The front garden of 'Yaralla' gives onto a path and lawns reaching down to clumps of giant bamboo from which a broad grassed walk, bordered on its higher side by elaborate concrete 'grotto work, leads from the site of the former jetty round the shore line to a shelter house also of grotto work beside the site of the former swimming pool, now infilled.

A grotto is described by J.W. Gent (1685) in his *Systema Horticultura* or *The Art of Gardening* as:

'a place that is capable of giving you so much pleasure and delight that you may bestow not undeservedly what cost you please on it, by paving it with marble, or immuring it with stone or rock work, either natural or artificial resembling the excellencies of Nature'.

The concrete grotto work at Yaralla dates from the Edwardian period and was heavily planted with native and exotic orchids, succulents, palms and cycads, many of which survive today. An



VIEW OF SWIMMING POOL AT YARALLA. 20th October 1901) photo: Mitchell Library

inscription on a photograph of the garden at Yaralla, dated 1918, reads:

'Ethel and I went up to 'Yaralla' this afternoon. It was very wet but we motored in the electric car around the grounds to see the rock lilies and ordinary lilies which were beautiful'.

Steps amid further grotto work lead to an upper lawn formerly the site of a tennis court, overlooked by an Italianate balustraded terrace.

While many of the features of the garden at 'Yaralla' have disappeared, sufficient remains of the original native vegetation, ornamental plantings and architectural features to maintain and enhance the setting for the house and other buildings.

Many fine specimen trees planted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries remain as evidence of the splendour of this unique residence. Notable examples are the Araucarias, Jerusalem Pines, Queensland Kauris and Rhapsis palms.

The rose garden, plumbago hedged is formally planned with two wire trellised arbours which survive.

Also of great importance at 'Yaralla' are the extensive mangrove stands along the Parramatta River shoreline, and an area of remnant eucalyptus woodland with its original shrubby understorey on the eastern side of the property.

'Yaralla' and its remaining grounds of almost 100 acres are heritage items with architectural, natural, aesthetic, historic and social significance. The property is listed by the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales), listed on the Register of the National Estate, and protected by a permanent conservation order made under the New South Wales Heritage Act, 1977.

With continued funding and support by Government, enthusiast groups and the public, 'Yaralla' can be conserved as a rare surviving example of a Victorian suburban estate and a record of the achievements of the remarkable Walker family.

*These notes have been prepared by Chris Betteridge. Special thanks are due to Penelope Ralph, Phil Stewart, Margot Child, Peter Watts and members of the Concord Historical Society for their considerable assistance.*



## The Busby Sweet Peas

by Diana Pockley

In the early days of the NSW National Trust Garden Committee, I tried to find out from many sources both here and overseas, the early plantings in The Colony. Amongst the people I contacted was the famous plant historian, Alice Coats. We kept up what is known as 'a lively correspondence' for some time as she was so interested that we were trying to recreate early 19th century gardens for our National Trust properties. This was before the founding of the Garden History Society. One day she sent me an article from an old Illustrated London News (11.9.54) which she thought would interest me. It was written by the noted gardener, Clarence Elliott, V.M.H. and entitled, 'A Historic Sweet Pea' I will quote it in full . . .

'Flowering in my garden now there is a little clump of sweet peas with a truly astonishing history and pedigree. They are a variety I have known since childhood as the 'Painted Lady' sweet pea, an antique variety with small pink and white flowers, relatively short stems, a more hard bitten wiry habit than the modern peas, and a fragrance many degrees more powerful than that of any of the present day monsters. The seeds were originally sent to me in 1952 as a result of an article on Sweet Peas which I wrote on this page, 30/8/52, and I trust the sender, Miss Busby of Bowral in NSW will forgive me if, without special permission I quote from her letter in which she gave me the history of this special strain of the old pea.

In 1823" she wrote, "my great grandfather, John Busby, was appointed by the Colonial Office as Civil Engineer" . . . to the colony of NSW, and arrived here complete with ship, four sons, a wife and daughter. Mrs Busby was a keen gardener, and some of the seeds she brought in her luggage were sweet peas - old pink and white 'lady'. This strain we have kept pure for five generations. Don't grow any other sweet peas near them or they will mix in one season . . . The seed was grown at 'Cassilis' our original grant of 1829.

We still have the place in the family; an unusual thing in Australia nowadays. Seed is disease free-very strong perfume. Unfortunately we lost the purply one during bush fires . . . All gardeners will agree that that is a truly wonderful record of devotion to gardening and to flowers, lasting unbroken over 130 years and through five generations in one family. That modest little sweet pea has charmed its owners into growing it, without a break, all those years, an annual, which had to be raised season after season, grown and flowered, and the seeds saved for the next year's growing. What a triumph to have survived those earlier pioneer days of a hundred or so years ago. Time and opportunity for indulging in the gentler amenities of life, such as gardening, must surely have been difficult to find in Australia of those days. Yet a passionate love of gardening and of flowers and especially such strong reminders of 'home' as sweet peas will always find a way. In later years this little 'Painted Lady' sweet pea must have found itself in competition with the big flamboyant modern sweet peas with their stems like salmon rods, bestrung with wavy-petalled blossoms, four, five and even six to a stem. All honour to the 'Painted Lady' for holding her own amid such innovations. And now today, this gallant little *Lathyrus odoratus*, has the added value of being a genuine antique. In the Busby family the plant must long since have acquired the status of heirloom. Long may it survive!"

I wrote to the Illustrated London News for permission to use this article for our researches and tracked down Miss Busby who had sadly died since the article was written. Eventually after many investigations some precious seeds were found in Adelaide. We grew these in our National Trust garden of Experiment Farm Cottage quite successfully and carefully kept the seeds for the following year. It was an anxious venture but luckily in spite of being in a garden a long way from our supervision, slugs and snails, lack of watering, neighbours growing modern sweet peas and the local bees, the Painted Ladies remain intact. I see in the current Thompson and Morgan 1983 Catalogue they are listed as 'Painted Lady Climber. Introduced nearly 2 centuries ago'. Smaller carmine and white blooms. Powerful lingering fragrance" . . . and so they are now available to all those who would love these sweetly scented charming little flowers.

## My Mortgaged Piece of Shame

by Kay Overell

My first garden brought with it an antique septic tank. When our fastidious plumber pronounced the surrounds of the tank as 'disgusting', the plan for a bog border was born. I would camouflage this mortgaged piece of shame with flowers so pretty nobody would every say such ear-burning things about it again.

The planning and planting was carried out before the publication of 'Grow What Wet' and it was very difficult to establish just what would grow wet. Finally plants were selected according to what is grown in English bog gardens, this being the only non-conflicting information source I could find. These plants were also readily available by mail order.

The white calla lily, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, I knew would thrive in the bog. Along with the canna it was the only flower gracing the septic tanks in those scorched back-yards of my Queensland childhood. The calla was a must, one can gaze and gaze at those pristine spathes, but the sight of the canna, I'm ashamed to admit, is still blurred with prejudice and negative associations. It just seems unable to escape its role as a municipal dot plant.

Betty Hammer, a day lily hybrid, planted in a really squelchy section has shown nothing but the desire to please so characteristic of the *Hemerocallis* genus. They ask only for the chance to live - anywhere - it would seem.

*Iris Sibirica* grows well in my bog. It's flower is - as Frances Kelly puts it 'my desert-island choice' of iris, but then it has to give a very special bloom in order to compensate for a short flowering period and all those slovenly leaves.

Astilbes there are too, but they really need some shade and usually septic tanks are as exposed as the honored rotary clothes hoist. (There is a house right on a northern Sydney beach with

nothing but a clothes hoist standing between the house and the blue Pacific - now that's a position of honor!)

In high summer *Lythrum* throws up bright pink spires which contrast well with the similarly coloured domes of the *Monarda didyma* flower, or bee balm as the North Americans call it. In this always moist but never usually squelchy section there is also a pinky-purple *Tradescantia virginiana*. Spiderwort, its old-fashioned name, is a good cloudy day plant. Under the summer sun its flowers shrivel with heat exhaustion before lunch-time, but sheltered by a dull sky the simple petals have an almost luminescent glow. Perhaps it too is a shade plant.

The most interesting result of my bog border is that the Japanese iris, *Iris kaempferi*, flowers well planted in a position that is even wetter in winter than in summer. I had read repeatedly that this iris needed a dry winter. This seemed an extraordinarily temperamental demand for a bog plant to make so I risked it with consequent success. Now I read in February's 'Garden Cuttings' that what it won't take in winter is standing water - bog is OK.

Because *Schizostylis* 'Mrs Hegarty' is a newcomer to the bog it hasn't yet flowered. It is, however, growing strongly in a very wet position.

Now the bog border has clumped up well I hardly ever need to weed and naturally never need to water. Dead-heading and laying snail bait are the only routine chores.

I prepared a very 'fruity' soil for it, digging in bags and bags of commercial compost. All the plants mentioned seem to appreciate their humus-rich existence and have consequently proven most co-operative.

The realisation of the bog border plan was a breezy success in comparison to many other more recalcitrant schemes that have been attempted. That former air of dismal suburban neglect has been dispelled and now there exists a green and pretty place.

## The Cropper Cracker

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## Book Reviews

### Trees for Flowers and Fragrance

### Trees for Fruit and Foliage

by Stirling Macoboy; published by Lansdowne Press

Recommended retail price - each \$10.00

Reviewed by Tim North

One might question whether there is room for any more illustrated reference books on trees, either native or exotic. Go to the gardening section of any large bookshop and you will find several useful ones from which to choose. The answer is that there really isn't room for more - unless they are by Stirling Macoboy.

For Stirling Macoboy (better known as Bill) is not only - as the 'blurb' on the back cover of these two quite slim books tells us - Australia's best selling author of garden books, but he is also a wizard with the camera - a camera which is obviously well travelled, for the colour pictures in these books have been taken in Australia, the United States, in England, France, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand and the Pacific Isles.

Inevitably there is some duplication between the two books - there are, after all, plenty of trees that are notable for flowers, fragrance, fruit and foliage.

Their value lies very largely in their use as a means of identification, and in this respect they are - as are all Bill Macoboy's books - excellent. The chances are that whatever strange looking tree you come across, in the length and breadth of Australia, you will be able to identify it from one of these books. The descriptions are, of course, fairly brief, for they are not by any means voluminous books; but they are adequate, and the 'vital statistics' are clearly laid out. One can tell at a glance, for example, whether a certain tree is deciduous or evergreen, its main flowering/fruiting season, its maximum height, and its preferred climatic range.

The first volume, on flowers and fragrance, describes 250 trees, the second, on fruit and foliage, over 300. I know that I am going to find these books extremely useful.

### Planting c.1850 to 1900

by P. Jones.

### A Guide to the Restoration, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Early Style Australian Gardens and Man-made Landscapes

Published by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as part of the Technical Bulletin Series of the Australian Council of National Trusts.

Reviewed by John Patrick

The restoration of historic houses and gardens has become a considerable fashion, one which it can only be hoped will continue, for the sympathetic handling of such properties provides a valuable reminder of our historic heritage. This new Bulletin from the National Trust is designed to assist those property owners in the restoration of their gardens by helping to identify suitable plant material for inclusion. However, it is a book riddled with problems and does little to clarify the situation for the amateur gardener or for the professional.

The first problem is that it is really extremely difficult to

discuss plants which might be considered suitable for use in restoration without discussing different types of restoration. For example we might restore according to the character established by old plans or old photographs. In this case a fairly exact restoration might be possible. On the other hand our restoration might simply be sympathetic, re-establishing a garden which suits our period and our site and thereby producing a solution which provides an appropriate setting for our house.

Whichever process we undertake what seems especially important is the identification of the specific plant to be used. It is, quite simply, not enough to say "Berberis" or "Cotoneaster", "Oxalis" or "Potentilla" for as we all know these genera are large and diverse in their character. Many of their species are unlikely to have been grown in the nineteenth century and many modern varieties are clearly quite unsuitable. Nowhere in this book is this pointed out. Instead we read in Part C, "Exterior Planting" nothing more than extensive lists of plant genera which were grown in nineteenth century gardens. This does not provide sufficient information, besides which it becomes extremely monotonous.

Only in Part D, "Specifications", do we receive some advice on the ways in which plants are to be used in garden restoration. Even here advice is limited. For example, we read that "In the flower border, plants should range from generally less than 225 mm in height in front to greater than 225 mm behind", which says very little if you stop to think about it!

Plant lists which follow within this section are more useful, for here some species are identified although even here there are annoying inconsistencies. This is most evident where vernacular names follow botanical nomenclature. Thus we read "contrasts of form may utilize trees with drooping or weeping branches such as SALIX (Weeping Willow), FRAXINUS . . . which now simply becomes (Ash) and ULMUS which is simply ELM. Clearly this is most unhelpful to any reader who is unfamiliar with plant nomenclature and characteristics.

Some plants are discussed twice within a few lines, others are incorrectly spelt and other entries reveal a most annoying habit of announcing a botanical specific name only for it to be followed by its vernacular name, thus AZALEA (Azalea), RHODODENDRON (Rhododendron) and AGAVE (Agave), all of which is laboursing the assistance given to non-horticulturists.

Altogether I found this publication to be so vague as to be almost useless, which is a great pity for clearly this is a subject of fundamental importance to those who are interested in the restoration of period gardens. Furthermore, it is written in a turgid, professional style which will do nothing to excite amateur gardeners and which may well prematurely put an end to any initial excitement they may have felt about restoring their gardens. I can only hope that this publication will not deter others from adding their research and expertise to this vital area.

Perhaps I may end this review by quoting a few lines from the section on Maintenance, which deals with Pruning: "Shrubs generally should be pruned only slightly on occasions, providing that their soil is suitable." Clearly, this says it all . . . and nothing.

## Large Gardens and Parks: Maintenance, Management & Design (1982)

by T.W.J. Wright. Published by Granada, London  
reviewed by John Patrick

Among the numerous publications about gardens and gardening it is remarkable that no major work has appeared before this time on the vital aspect of garden maintenance. Clearly it is the costs and technical knowledge related to this process which creates the greatest problems when we consider the major historic parks and gardens of Australia. No longer is it possible for even the wealthiest members of our community to continue to provide limitless resources for the upkeep of this valuable component of our heritage.

Tom Wright does not direct all of his attention to historic landscapes and gardens, indeed only three chapters are concerned with this subject alone. However, since the author acts as consultant to a number of historic gardens in the United Kingdom it is quite clear that his sympathies and experience ensure that much of what he writes is extremely relevant to this subject.

While we may all bemoan the recession and its effects, there is no doubt that such an experience makes us reassess many of our firmly held beliefs and reappraise the standards which we expect. Such a process is not always a bad thing, especially if at the completion of this reappraisal we find ourselves achieving our basic goals and objectives more efficiently by the use of modified procedures and new methods.

In the United Kingdom, where economic hardships struck earlier than in Australia, considerable effort has been expended on reducing maintenance costs. When we consider that as much as 75% of the costs of garden maintenance derive from wage bills it soon becomes apparent that our attention must be directed here; there is little to be gained by focussing on plants and seeds (2%), fertilizers (3%) or sundries (1%) as areas in which to cut costs.

Thus the British experience has been to identify ways in which labour demands may be reduced. Solutions to the problem lie in three clear sectors - firstly, a general understanding by owners, or at least those responsible for a garden's maintenance, of the principles of horticulture; secondly an understanding, followed by the application, of modern maintenance techniques; and thirdly modifications in design which allow easier, speedier and therefore cheaper maintenance. It is these three areas in which the author expands upon and discusses at length, to provide readers with a wealth of knowledge which will allow a firm basis for future management and maintenance programmes.

This is not the place in which to enlarge upon these topics in detail, for this is done exceptionally well in the book itself. I may, however, make a few observations.

Clearly an understanding of horticultural procedures and the work which each entails is of primary importance to the garden owner. Knowledge of plant performance and behaviour is fundamental and if this is based upon plant ecology then the owner is in an excellent position to be able to use a plant's habits and requirements to advantage, to allow plantings to be formed so that maintenance procedures are simplified. Thus ground-covers beneath trees and shrubs, plantings which will tolerate suitable herbicide procedures or watering regimes, will help to simplify maintenance procedures and thus reduce costs.

There is also benefit to be derived from carefully studying the performance of staff both in respect of their work rate and also to

identify tasks which demand considerable time-input. This latter point is essential since it will help identify procedures which might be re-considered because of the cost which is entailed in their implementation. The use of annual bedding schemes would be an obvious case where costs out of all proportion to the value of the result are involved, i.e. a brief flash of seasonal splendour. But equally the use of labour to cut tall hedges may make economic nonsense, especially if we are able to compare times involved in hand-cutting with times taken by mechanical systems.

This brings me to the second major consideration, namely the use of new techniques and systems for maintenance. These might be mechanical, for example mowers or hedge-trimmers, or chemical, for example growth retardants and herbicides. Whichever techniques we choose we must carefully balance their costs against the costs related to the use of traditional techniques.

Finally, there are modifications in design which reduce maintenance costs. These will be highlighted by work study procedures which may have been undertaken. The difficult thing is to fit these design modifications, brought about by maintenance considerations, into the framework of the historic garden. We have to balance the fact that the original design of a garden is essential to the provision of that garden's character and interest with the fact that without the necessary maintenance the garden is doomed. Clearly this is a difficult balance to achieve.

These are the problems to which the author addresses himself, and he does it very well. The sensible and balanced consideration of techniques and tools will provide a great deal of valuable information to the owner of a large garden, who may have no detailed knowledge of his own.

While all this is extremely valuable, I believe that it is not until Chapter 6 'The Maintenance and Management of Historic Gardens' that Mr Wright identifies the single most important procedure in the management and maintenance of gardens - 'A management plan for an historic garden should be based on the following information . . . statement or review of the general aims and objectives of the plan in the short, middle or long term periods; the title 'historic garden' implies a long term existence, thus a management plan should look well ahead'.

I might ask how many professional organizations responsible for the maintenance of historic landscapes, and here I mean Parks Departments, have ever stopped and identified 'general aims and objectives' of their management of historic gardens and parks.

This is an admirable and essential text. Clearly it is written for the British market, but potential buyers should not be deterred by this. It is the principles which are propounded which are essential, and these are of interest everywhere.

Case studies of historic gardens in England, France and Ireland provide examples of how these policies can be implemented. It is interesting to note that British tax legislation gives little more assistance to garden owners than that in Australia, except where gardens are opened to the public. This is controlled and well organized, and appears to cause next to no damage in any of the case study sites. Perhaps this is the direction in which things need to move here, with tax relief based upon public access.

My main disappointment with this laudable text is its failure to discuss more fully the ways in which gardens might become self-supporting. Charging at the gate for access helps but is unlikely to achieve long-lasting economic security. Clearly for many owners of historic gardens modified use of the kitchen garden or areas well screened from the garden itself may offer a viable way in which to secure the long term well-being of the site.

## Book List

Compiled by Neil Robertson

Gertrude Jekyll re-issues, published by the Antique Collectors' Club, \$37.50 each:

Gardener's Testament

Flower Decoration in the House

Children and Gardens

Heavenly Caves, by Naomi Miller: A history of the garden grotto (Allen and Unwin, approx \$45.00).

The Crocus, by Brian Matthew; describes 80 species and sub-species, with 96 pages of colour illustrations (Batsford, \$67.50).

Walled Gardens, by Diana Saville; a lavishly illustrated guide to the planting of walled enclosures (Batsford, \$47.50).

Gardening on Walls, by Christopher Grey-Wilson and Victoria Matthews; describes 1600 plants and flowers that can be grown on walls and pergolas (Collins, \$27.95).

Perennial Garden Plants, by Graham Stuart Thomas; a revised edition of this classic work (Dent, approx \$45.00).

A Century of Gardeners, by Betty Massingham; a look at a variety of gardens and gardeners (Faber, \$35.95).

The Englishman's Garden, edited by Rosemary Verey and Alvide Lees-Milne; a fitting sequel to "The Englishwoman's Garden" (Allen Lane, \$24.95).

Green Thoughts, by Eleanor Perenyi; filled with practical advice, opinions, prejudices and unexpected bits of history (Allen Lane, \$19.95).

The English Landscape Garden, 1710-1830, by David Jacques (Batsford, approx \$67.50).

Gertrude Jekyll on Gardening, by Penelope Hobhouse; an anthology of Miss Jekyll's own writing (Collins, approx \$36.00).

The Education of a Gardener, by Russell Page; a re-issue of this classic work (Collins, approx \$36.00).

Climbing Plants, by Kenneth A. Beckett; illustrated in colour and black and white (Croom Helm, \$27.00).

Climbing Roses, Old and New, by Graham Stuart Thomas; a revised edition (Dent, approx \$31.00).

Stately Gardens of Britain, by Thomas Hinde; describes 24 of the most important gardens open to the public (Ebury Press, approx \$45.00).

The Adventurous Gardener, by Christopher Lloyd; a sequel to "The Well-tempered Gardener" (Allen Lane, approx \$27.50).

An Irish Florilegium, 48 watercolours by Wendy Walsh, with detailed notes by Dr E. Charles Nelson, introduction by Ruth-Isabel Ross (Thames and Hudson, approx \$180.00).

My World of Old Roses, by Trevor Griffiths (Whitcoulls Publishers, \$29.95).

Mrs Earles' Pot-pourri — a selection from the books of Mrs C. W. Earle, edited by Anne Scott-James (\$25.95).

The Origins of Garden Plants, by John Fisher (Constable, \$34.50).

The prices quoted are recommended retail prices only. Where prices are quoted as approximate the book has not yet been published in Australia, though will be available shortly.

For further information on the titles listed above contact Webbers Booksellers, 15 McKillop Street, Melbourne, telephone (03) 67-2559 or (03) 67-2418.

## Rare Plants Protected

The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Eric Bedford, acting on the recommendation of the Heritage Council, has made interim conservation orders over two natural areas which include populations of rare plant species.

An area of remnant bushland in the Illawarra region, which is one of the last vestiges of the natural vegetation of the coastal plain in the area, has been protected following an earlier emergency order under section 136 of the Heritage Act.

Several species of rare native ground orchids including *Pterostylis gibbosa* (*ceriflora*) which grow in the area were threatened by clearing for cattle grazing. Scientists from the National Herbarium, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, The Australian Museum, and several conservation groups have all stressed the importance of the area.

A spokesman for the National Herbarium said that, although these orchids could possibly be grown in cultivation, their re-establishment in new areas in the wild is unlikely. The total array of environmental needs of a species which enable its continued existence in the wild, may well only coincide in its native area. The pollination mechanisms of many plants are still uncertain, and other environmental factors such as levels of humidity, light intensity, and soil nutrients, texture, structure and drainage may all be critical to the survival of a plant species.

The other natural area to be protected is a patch of remnant coastal rainforest near Brunswick Heads on the North Coast of New South Wales. It has also been made the subject of an interim conservation order.

This area is one of only four sites in the State known to contain specimens of a recently identified species of small rainforest tree of the genus *Acronychia*. Clearing of the site for residential development has already resulted in the loss of most of the population of this tree and the Heritage Council considered that urgent action was needed to protect the surviving specimens.

John Williams, Senior Lecturer in Botany at the University of New England, Armidale, is conducting research into the species and feels that other areas which may have contained specimens have mostly been cleared for beach-sand mining and development.

Protection of these two sites under the interim powers of the Heritage Act will allow time for further scientific research and the determination of appropriate long-term conservation and management measures.

These instances emphasise the fact that plant species about which little is known are still being lost as a result of inadequate protection of remnant natural areas. This is particularly so on private lands where owners are often unaware of the potential conservation importance of their holdings.

The book 'Rare or Threatened Australian Plants', published by the CSIRO in 1981 to coincide with the International Botanical Congress, identifies 410 species of plants considered to be rare or threatened in New South Wales. Of these only about half are known to exist in conservation reserves.

It is an oft-quoted but never hackneyed expression that "extinction really is forever".

Reprinted with permission from *Heritage Conservation News*, the Newsletter of the Heritage Council of New South Wales. Autumn 1983



# The White Sapote

by Paul Recher

What looks like a Granny Smith apple, has the texture of a perfect Avocado, and tastes of pear, peach, banana, and custard apple? The answer is a native tree of the Central American Highlands (500 to 1800 m) called the White Sapote.

Botanically it is *Casimiroa edulis*; the species is in the family Rutaceae, which also includes Citrus. Their mutual affinity can be seen in the seeds, as those of *Casimiroa* are a replica of an orange pip magnified by ten.

This handsome tree reaches a height of 15 m, and is drought resistant. It does not do well in areas subject to heavy rainfall, and in particular hates lowland humid tropical conditions.

The White Sapote has been distributed around the world, and is fruiting successfully in areas such as California, Florida, the Mediterranean, the drier parts of Hawaii (Kona and Pohomoho), Northern India, Florida and Sydney.

The tree can be evergreen or sporadically deciduous, whereby even in the warmer months it will suddenly decide to shed its leaves for a fresh batch.

The White Sapote is well known for its spectacular yields, with several hundredweight being commonplace. The outstanding example is the cultivar "Chestnut", which in 1971 bore three tons of fruit.

This delicious fruit tree caught the imagination of Californian nurserymen and horticulturists more than fifty years ago, when a number of selections were made, including the everbearing variety "Suebelle". Some of these cultivars were imported into Australia as long ago as 1937 when at least one nursery offered them for sale. During the past six years a large number of the extant varieties available in California, Florida and New Zealand have been imported into Australia — "Blumenthal", "Vermont", "Vista", "Wilson", "Dade", "Pike", "Lomita", "Te Puna", "Henrickson", "Denzler", "Ortego", "McDill", "Golden Globe", etc.

The White Sapote is adaptable to a wide range of soils preferring a slightly acid sandy loam. However, it grows well on any well drained soil type including Florida soils with a pH of 8.5. It is totally intolerant of any degree of waterlogging.

Insect pests are few. Black Scale is a common infestation which can be controlled simply with a spray of white oil diluted 1:80. If the infestation is heavy a follow-up spray three to four weeks later is required. Unfortunately, this year has revealed that fruit fly will sting the fruit while it is still hard.

Tree training is essential. Most varieties if allowed to grow on their own accord will grow their single leader with no branching for four metres or more, eventually recurving under its own top-heavy weight. It is necessary to cut back the leader by one-third when approximately one metre high. Subsequent branches will have to be treated in a similar fashion. After three to five such prunings the *Casimiroa* smartens up and branching occurs at the appropriate intervals, maintaining the desired symmetrical crown.

A related species, *Casimiroa tetrameria*, the "Woolly-leaved Sapote", produces similar fruit, with a stronger, more resinous flavour. It seems likely that some selections are the result of interspecific hybridization between these two *Casimiroa* species. The variety "Max Golden" is known to be a selection of *C. tetrameria*.

In spite of its deliciousness and tremendous yields only very

minor commercialization has taken place. This has been partly due to a lack of an organized, concerted effort, but is primarily due to the short shelf life of the fruit. Even though the fruit can be picked rock hard from the tree and still develop full flavour, once it starts to soften (three to four days after harvest) the fruit must be consumed within seventy-two hours. Furthermore as the fruit softens unsightly bruises show up. In spite of this several small orchards are being planted. Perhaps the advances in post-harvest handling will help to overcome the shelf-life problem.

From Perth to Adelaide, and on into the drier tropical zones of Australia *Casimiroa edulis* is a must for any backyard enthusiast. One tree will feed an entire block.

Trees are available from a number of nurseries, including my own, and also:

Dalley's Nursery, Kyogle; David Higham, Ravenshoe, Qld; Berry Spooner, Eltham, N.S.W.; Fitzroy Nursery, Rockhampton.

Also others which I apologise for not knowing, but if they write and tell me I will mention them in my next article. Depending on nursery and cultivar prices range, for grafted trees, from \$7.60 to \$15.00.

Note: Paul Recher with his wife run Fruit Spirit Research Nursery and Garden, at Dorroughby, N.S.W. 2480. There they have 43 acres of warm subtropical land devoted to the assessment of a wide range of plants from all around the world, their speciality being subtropical and tropical fruits and nuts. In the past five years they have planted more than 800 species, of which over 200 have edible parts. Some of these have come from such diverse places as Ecuador, Malawi, the Ivory Coast and China. The nursery is one means by which this considerable trials programme can be financed. Lines offered in the nursery currently include *Dombeya rotundifolia*, *Dovyalis rhamnoides*, *Mimusops hexandra*, *Oncoba routledgii* and *Myrciavia cauliflora*.



## Woodbank Nursery, Longley, Tasmania

Many of our readers will know that Ken Gillanders and his wife suffered a disastrous loss in November last year, when a bushfire destroyed all their selling stock and the main rock garden full of stock plants.

It is good, therefore, to see that their latest plant list (April 1983) is almost as comprehensive as ever, twenty-three closely typed sheets - though they do apologize for several lines being missing.

Woodbank Nursery is still one of the best - if not the best - sources for rare and unusual plants, especially alpenines, in Australia, and their list is a 'must' for all keen gardeners. Send 75c for a copy to be mailed, to:

Woodland Nursery,  
Huon Highway, Longley, Tasmania.

Postal Address:  
RMB 303 Kingston, Tasmania, 7150.  
Telephone: (002) 39-6452

## And Now A Yellow Pelargonium!

by Jean Llewellyn

Trevor Nottle in his article 'Delphiniums Red and Geraniums Blue' (Garden Cuttings, October 1982) told of many beautiful Geraniums. Geraniums of sky blue - bright light blue - silvery pink and the deepest of purple were some of the interesting plants mentioned by this writer. All so charmingly described as a real Geranium, a Geranium with a capital G, and not a 'geranium' with a capital P for Pelargonium.

What then are these 'geraniums' with a capital P. These are the common 'geranium' of the average gardener, mostly thought of as red in colour, hardy in habit, in fact, the plant that grew in grandmother's garden and is now happily growing in ours.

To the discerning gardener however there is a vast difference in the 'Cranesbill' of Trevor Nottle's article and the 'Storksbill' of this. Both members of the Family Geraniaceae they have, on the surface, little in common other than the fascinating shape of their seed pods. Even the seed dispersal technique is uniquely different. But that is another story!

Pelargoniums have long been grown and many cultivars produced, however the elusive blue of the Geranium has so far escaped the skill of the Pelargonium hybridiser. Perhaps at the present time, the closest to blue is the regal pelargonium 'Blue Bird' or the hybrid-ivy 'Blauer Fruhling' ('Blue Spring'). Yet the haze of blue is there in the species Pelargonium as is also the much sought after yellow.

*Pelargonium quinquelobatum*, a native of the African countries of Kenya, Tanganyika and Abyssinia is a dainty dwarf growing, straggly yet branching plant with leaves of dull green having from three to five lobes. Flowers are held on long slender stems in small trusses and are of an indefinable colour range through soft greyed green to lavender, to blue. The blue is not often there for it depends on climatic conditions but when it is, it is worth waiting for.

Some work with this species was done in Australia in the early 1960's. Introductions such as the 'Zonquils' are unfortunately, no longer available. However it appears that it is from this species *P. quinquelobatum* that the current Yellow Pelargonium may have been derived.

In 1977 a plant appeared on the English market, unheralded and unsung, and yet this was the first breakthrough for the yellow pelargonium. Named by its hybridiser as 'Creamery' it is a low bushy plant with bright green pointed leaves and double deep cream to pale yellow flowers. Again it is understood that *P. quinquelobatum* had some influence on this cultivar, but unlike the earlier 'Zonquils' this plant has survived.

The Yellow Pelargonium now advertised in England has semi-double flowers of primrose yellow, in fact the plant is so named, 'Primrose Yellow'. Stocks are limited for the time being so it is quite unlikely it will appear on the Australian market in the near future, but obviously it is worth waiting for.

Recent developments in Pelargonium have brought many changes and now plants grown from seed are the 'in' thing overseas. Australians will have heard of and even grown the new 'Startel Geraniums' so reminiscent of the local 'Five Fingered Pelargoniums' peculiar only to this country in the 1950's and early 1960's.

The new F1 dwarf zonal pelargonium 'Video' is a breakthrough in breeding for dwarf, earlier flowering plants in areas of lower temperatures and will therefore be popular with English gardeners. Such colours as 'Video Scarlet', 'Video Rose', 'Video Salmon' and 'Video Blush' are already being advertised.

Whether these plants will be as suitable for Australian conditions remains to be seen.

The new graft hybrid group known as the 'Harlequin' series makes an interesting diversion from the now well-known red and white striped ivy-leaved pelargonium 'Roulette'. Currently available in England, and possibly soon to be so in Australia, they are advertised as 'Mahogany' deep red, 'Picotee' soft pink, 'Alpine Glow' mauve, 'Pretty Girl' orange, 'My Love' bright red and 'Rosy O'Day' rich pink.

The Australian Geranium Society has as its objects the promotion of the culture and knowledge of the Geraniaceae in all of its phases. It is appropriate then that in this, the twenty fifth year of the Society a Seminar will be held at Macquarie University in September.

Special emphasis will be given through papers, poster papers, displays, workshops and demonstrations on the development of new cultivars, new growing techniques, disease and insect control. Many other areas of interest such as the increasing use of the scented-leaved pelargoniums, and the Society's task as the International Registration Authority for Pelargonium in the recording and publishing of all Pelargonium cultivar names, should add to the value of attendance at this Seminar.

Further information may be obtained from the Seminar Chairman, Miss B. Hudson, 15/257 Pacific Highway, Lindfield, N.S.W. 2070 or Mrs J.D. Llewellyn on (02) 44-5531.



## A northern rainforest nursery

Zodiac Nursery, at Tolga in Northern Queensland, run by Garry Sankowsky, provides a large range of rainforest species to the nursery trade and to local authorities, etc. for street and park planting. Most of the species grown are from the Atherton Tablelands and are grown in the nursery at 24,000 feet under 70% shade cloth. Many are, therefore, sufficiently hardy for areas much further south.

Most plants are sold in 2 inch tubes, which means that they have to be grown on before being planted out - the ideal size for planting out most rainforest plants being from 6 inch (150mm) pots.

One point that this nursery emphasizes is that rainforest trees can be heavily pruned; small trees can be made into shrubs and large trees into small ones by regular pruning.

The Sapindaceae are recommended as being the best group for small gardens, as they are naturally small trees. This family includes *Arytera divaricata* (the Rose Tamarind) with bright pink new growth and orange fruit, and *Atalaya hemiglaucula*, a medium sized shrub with blue-green lobed leaves.

The best group overall, especially in relation to attractive flowers, is the Proteaceae, like *Lomatia fraxinifolia* (The Lomatia Silky Oak), *Opisthiolepis heterophylla* (The Blush Silky Oak), *Cadwellia sublimus* (The Northern Silky Oak) and *Helicia nortoniana*, a small tree that bears bright blue fruit.

Plants are marketed in cartons, the minimum order for rail delivery being one carton, which contains 96 2-inch tubes, or 40 3-inch tubes. As a special offer to those starting a rainforest plot the nursery gives 10% discount for one or more cartons of their selection, with not more than five of any one species.

A complete list of plants available is available from: Zodiac Nursery, P.O. Box 210, Tolga, N. Qld. 4882.

# **garden** **cuttings**

## **Dressed seed**

Try putting a small number of seeds into a pan, moistening them lightly with a mist sprayer, then dusting them with dolomite, powdered clay or agricultural gypsum to gradually build up a coating on each seed for easier subsequent handling.

For tiny seeds a gesneriad grower in the U.S., Henry B. Kirkley, cuts 2 cm squares or discs from 2-ply bathroom tissues, separates the two piles, and lays them on a board. Two or three dabs of honey are applied with a match-stick onto each piece of tissue. Then a single seed, easily picked up with a moistened needle, is dropped on each dab, and the second ply of tissue is pressed down onto the first.

## **Blue and Green Hippeastrums**

Blue Hippeastrum (*H. procerum*) was re-introduced into cultivation in the U.S. a few years ago. Now an unusual green-flowered species from the mountains of Brazil, *H. calyptrata*, with chartreuse flowers and deeper green veins, that are delightfully fragrant, is available. This species flowers twice a year, in summer and early winter.

Seed of both these species is available from Geo. W. Park Seed Co. Both will flower in about five years from seed, and should be grown in full sun. Neither have a dormant period in that leaves are present all through the year, but there is a semi-resting period in autumn to early winter.

Another species which may be available soon is *H. hieronymiella aurea* from Argentina; this has fragrant yellow daffodil-like flowers in spring and autumn.

## **Aeroponics**

Aeroponics is a technique, developed in Israel, in which plants suspended in air inside a growth chamber are sprayed with a nutrient solution.

In Disney World's new Experimental Prototype Community of To-morrow exhibit, melons and spinach plants are grown in A-frames over lettuce which are planted in styrofoam pieces floating on water. In another exhibit tomatoes are grown on conveyor belts which move the plants through boxes where they are sprayed with a nutrient mist. In Georgia a commercial grower of house plants uses 'vertical aeroponics', planting cuttings in walls which have nutrient mists inside them.

## **Archaeological survey**

Sophisticated techniques involving aerial photography and scanning electron microscopes are being used in studying archaeological sites, but to recreate gardens and vineyards in Pompeii archaeologists simply vacuumed the volcanic residues from root holes, then poured in concrete to make casts of the roots so that they could identify the plants.

## **Encouraging pests**

The Organic Farming Research Association, at Malvern in England, report that moderate insect infestation can actually improve both yields and nutritional content of crops. Cabbage root fly, for example, was found to stimulate increased flower bud production and higher Vitamin C in broccoli and cauliflower. Strawberry yields were found to rise following attack by the strawberry blossom weevil, and leaf miner attack resulted in higher Vitamin E in celery.

## **Solid teak garden furniture**

Robert Lister designed solid teak furniture enjoyed for so long in England and Europe by garden enthusiasts is now available in Australia.

Attractive and robust, solidly built in flawless natural teak, the supreme hardwood — Lister teak bench seats enhance the natural beauty of any landscape, gardenscape, or townscape — blending over the years to harmonise with any environment in which they are placed.

On the practical side, maintenance costs are reduced measurably. Without paint or preservative, benches are still in daily use after seventy years; so initial cost is likely to be the last.

The Lister teak chairs and tables are designed to complement the range of bench styles. The photograph illustrates the Warwick 6' bench seat.

Lister teak benches make ideal personal or corporate gifts to school or university grounds and provide an enduring remembrance in memorial parks. The name of a person or organisation may be carved in to the back rail of the bench or alternatively engraved plaques can be supplied.

For details of the range contact the distributor:

Malam Pty. Ltd.,  
2/153A Queen Street,  
Woollahra 2028.  
Tel: (02) 328 6478

or

Australian Garden Journal  
P.O. Box 279,  
Edgecliff 2027.  
Tel: (02) 326 1519.





# garden market place

## NURSERIES - GENERAL

INVERGOWRIE FARM NURSERY, Wilson's Lane, Exeter, N.S.W. 2580. Tel: (048) 83-4277 — Extensive range of exotic and ornamental trees and shrubs, including conifers, maples, rhododendrons and azaleas. Many grafted lines. Tube to advanced sizes. Wholesale only.

SWANE'S NURSERY, 490 Galston Road, Dural, N.S.W. 2158. Tel: (02) 651-1322 — Where nature tends to grow on you! - Suppliers of quality trees, shrubs, roses, fruit trees, seedlings, indoor plants and a comprehensive range of chemicals and fertilizers to home gardeners. Qualified advisory staff on duty 7 days a week from 9 am to 5 pm. - Ample parking, light refreshments and beautiful gardens to make this a delightful nursery to visit.

WIRREANDA NURSERY, 169 Wirreanda Road, Ingleside, N.S.W. 2101. Tel: (02) 450-1400 — Top quality, super value trees and shrubs, ferns and indoor plants direct from the grower. Stunning assortment of Australian natives and exotics to choose from, including many species rare and unusual. Turn off Mona Vale Road at Tumburra Street, Ingleside, and follow signs to Nursery. Open 7 days.

## NURSERIES - SPECIALIST

THE LAVENDER PATCH (M & F French), Cullens Road, Kincumber, N.S.W. 2250. Tel: (043) 69-1611 — The Lavender Patch Farm and Nursery specialists in Lavender plants of all kinds - from the 'stillroom' quality dried Lavender and potpourri supplies. Open Saturday, Sunday and Monday only.

## NURSERIES - NATIVE PLANTS

ZODIAC NURSERY, P.O. Box 210, Tolga, North Queensland 4882 — Rainforest plants, wide range of species - Many never before offered. Trees, shrubs and creepers mostly in 50mm tubes grown on the Atherton Tableland, so are quite hardy. Most will survive at least to coastal southern N.S.W. - Minimum order one carton.

## SEEDSMEN

BUSHLAND FLORA, Box 118, Scarborough, W.A. 6019. Tel: (09) 446-3446 — W.A. wildflower seeds; rare and selected species - Banksias, Kangaroo Paws, Hakeas, Waxflowers, Feather Flowers, Eucalyptus, Melaleucas, Bottlebrushes, Everlastings, Sturt Peas, Starflowers, Boronias, Leschenaultias, and many more. Send stamped S.A.E. for descriptive list of 200 species.

## BOOKS ETC.

GATTON PLAZA NEWSAGENCY & BOOKSHOP, Gatton Plaza Shopping Centre, Gatton, Queensland 4343 — Publications on native plants, wildflowers - Largest selection available. Send a 35c stamp.

JOHIMA BOOKS, Village Arcade, Hillcrest Road, Pennant Hills, N.S.W. 2120. Tel: (02) 84-6576 — Specialist horticultural and agricultural bookshop; from "A" for African Violets to "W" for Weeds. Mail order service. Send SAE for catalogue.

## TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

W.J.NO BAKER (HOLDINGS) PTY. LTD. 3rd Floor, Dymock's Building, 428 George Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000. Tel: (02) 233-2331 - Wholesale and retail - wide range of top quality 'Kunde' (German) garden tools.

## Pest & Weed Control Spraying Equipment

Our February 1983 issue featured an article on a home-made sprayer. The author of this article, Mr C.L. Wheller, has now sent us a photograph of his sprayer, which is reproduced below.

He also points out that, in line 9 of paragraph 2 of this article '35 mm' should have read '35 cm'.



## Plants Wanted

Mr Gordon Julian, 18 Fromalls Street, Toowoomba, Qld. 4350, is seeking, on behalf of a Mr C. Innes who lives in England, seeds of Australian Iridaceae, i.e. *Diplarrena*, *Libertia*, *Patersonia*, and *Orthrosanthus*, also *Isophysis tasmanica*. Mr Innes would also appreciate good close-up colour slides of any species in these genera for a book he is writing.

Will anyone who is able to assist please get in touch with Mr Julian, who is willing to pay any costs incurred for seed, slides and postage.



"God Almighty esteemed the life of man in a garden the happiest He could give him, or else He would not have placed Adam in that of Eden. As gardening has been the inclination of Kings and the choice of Philosophers so it has been the common favourite of public and private men, a pleasure of the greatest and a care for the meanest, and indeed an employment and possession for which no man is too high or too low".

— Sir William Temple  
In the Garden of Epicurus, 1685

## Garden Classes

Swane's Nursery, at Dural, N.S.W. will be holding a series of garden classes in the spring. Details are as follows:

- Class 1: Plant propagation, transplanting, pruning.  
15th OR 17th September (1 day)
- Class 2: Gardening in 'problem' areas.  
22nd OR 24th September (1 day)
- Class 3: Gardening in small areas and in containers.  
6th OR 8th October (1 day)
- Class 4: Spring Garden Care.  
13th OR 15th October (1 day)

The fee is \$8.50 for one class, or \$30.00 for the set of four. Applications should be sent to: Swane's Nursery, Galston Road, Dural, N.S.W. 2158.



## Leura Gardens Festival 1983

This year the Leura Gardens Festival will be held over a continuous period of nine days from Saturday 8th October, to Sunday 16th October, 1983. All gardens will be open for inspection from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. each day during this period.

The extension of time from the usual two weekends to a continuous period of nine days has been provided to suit the convenience of visitors, such as clubs etc., who for various reasons, prefer to arrange their outings during the week rather than at weekends.

The admission charges \$1.00 per garden, or \$3.00 for inclusive ticket covering all gardens, have not been increased from last year, but the \$3.00 ticket will be available for use on any day between 8th and 16th October, whereas previously it was available on weekends only.

As in previous years, proceeds from the Festival will be donated to the Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital, Katoomba.

Further information may be obtained from Mr F.J. Spellacy, 34 Blaxland Rd, Wentworth Falls, 2782, phone (047) 57-1318, or Mr L Morel, 39 Stephen Street, Lawson, 2783, phone (047) 59-1963.



## Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

The 34th Carnival of Flowers will be held in Toowoomba from 17th to 24th September.

The 'Chronicle' competition gardens, which attract thousands of visitors each year, will be open free to the public for the whole week.

In addition, the 'Chronicle' exhibition gardens, comprising a number of private gardens (six this year) will be open for charity from Thursday 15th September to Sunday 25th September. A nominal admission fee is charged to view these gardens.

Intending visitors are advised to book accommodation well in advance.

## Teaching about Rainforests

The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) have recently introduced an educational "kit" on Australian rainforests, designed for both primary and secondary school teachers.

The kit, in an attractive box, contains 36 colour slides, a 48 page "Teachers' Notes", a 90 page "Fieldwork Activities" book, 30 foolscap "Paper Master" sheets, and the N.P.W.S. illustrated book on rainforests, together with posters and supporting material.

This kit is available from the National Trust Centre Bookshop, G.P.O. Box 518, Sydney, 2001, for \$48.00 plus \$3.50 for postage and packing.



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## Extracts from letters

I thoroughly enjoyed Shirley Stackhouse's "Flowers of the Verges" (Feb 1983). I have always been impressed with the roadsides up here and the incredible selection of "escapees" which proliferate. For instance, after rains, there are great sweeps of *Zephyranthes grandiflora* along the road from Ballina to Lennox Head. The roadside between here and Alstonville has a good collection of escaped Gladioli, the species *G. natalensis* (syn. *G. psittacinus*) among them. Surely it's time that some retired horticulturist who likes travelling did something with the subject. It would make fascinating reading.

Bob Raabe, Alstonville, N.S.W.



In regard to the article on *Franklinia alatamaha* (February 1983, page 70) your readers may be interested to know that seed has been available in the U.S.A. at various times and may possibly still be obtained from Geo. W. Park Seed Co. Inc., Greenwood, South Carolina, U.S.A. 29647, or by contacting Major Collins, Rt. 1, Box 251, Tifton, Georgia, U.S.A. 31794, if the former does not accept overseas orders.

I raised a couple of plants from such seed in the late 1960s and grew them in containers for several years, eventually losing them several years before moving to Romsey. The species has been listed as *Gordonia alatamaha* by Bailey for many years. s.

C.L. Wheller, Romsey, Victoria